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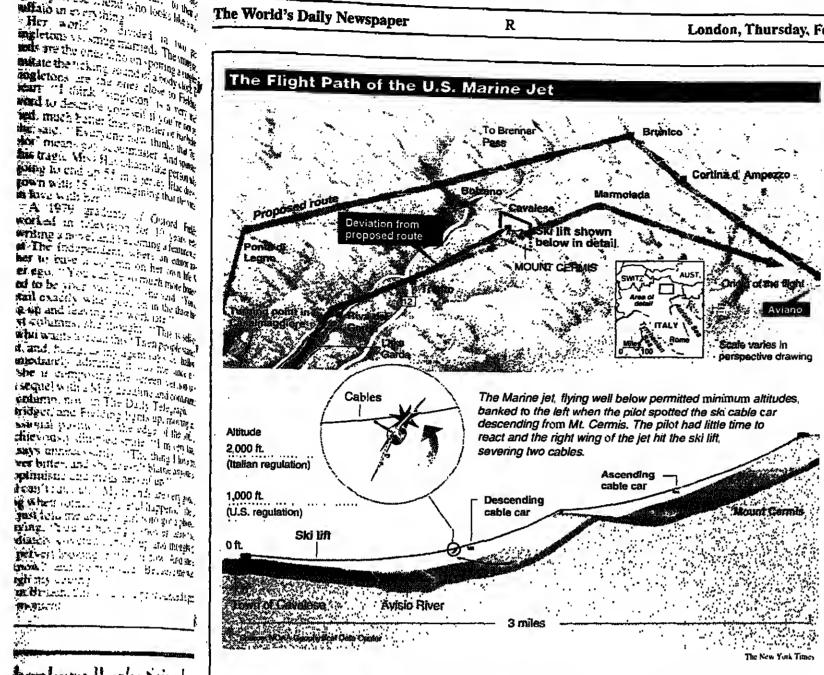
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London, Thursday, February 19, 1998



How the U.S. Plane Killed 20 in Italy

A Tale of Low Altitudes, Pentagon Regulations and Foreign Maps

By John Tagliabue and Matthew L. Wald New York Times Service

AVIANO, Italy — When a Marine Corps jet hit a ski lift in northern Italy two weeks ago, killing 20 people, the pilot was violating orders to fly 1,000 feet above the ground and had veered into an area that the Italian govern-

ment says was both off course and off limits for the flight.

It was the crew's first flight through the pristine Alpine valley, framed by mountains and dotted with tiny villages and ski slopes. But the pilot of the EA-6B Prowler did not have Italian williaguages approvided to his coman military maps provided to his commanders that marked the ski lift, which

is also clearly ooted on road maps. Instead the Pentagon, whose policy Is not to use maps made by foreign countries, had given the crew a U.S. military map that did not show the skilift cable, which was built 31 years ago, on the valley floor, south to the

top of Mount Cermis.
These details of the Feb. 3 flight have emerged from interviews with Italian and U.S. military and law-en-forcement officials, defense lawyers, the lift operator and others.

A binational military investigation is determining whether any of the jet's crew or its commanding officers should face a court-martial, possibly oo charges of negligent manslaughter. The inquiry could take several months.

Italian civilian prosecutors are conducting a separate investigation, but it is unlikely that the Marines will allow the four crew members to face criminal proceedings in Italy.

So far, the accounts provided by the officials and others involved draw a vivid picture of what began as a routine training mission laid out with military precision. But to those on the ground it looked like a joy ride by a crew that was scheduled to return to the United States in 10 days.

Roaring through the valley at more than 500 miles (800 kilometers) an hour, the jet skimmed lakes and roads frightened some villagers by

See FLIGHT, Page 7

'Encouraged' by Outlook, Annan Going to Baghdad

U.S. Again Warns of 'Very Serious Consequences'

By Christopher Wren

UNITED NATIONS, New York -The United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, said Wednesday that he was leaving for Baghdad with encouragement from Iraqi officials that they are ready to talk constructively about a solution to the crisis over weapons in-

Speaking after he briefed the Security Council, whose 15 members expressed unanimous support, Mr. Annan said that he had all that he needed to undertake

Alluding to Washington's threats of force, Bill Richardson, the U.S. representative, warned after the session of

B-2 bomber's role in strikes under debate, . U.S. says Iraq still has Scud-type missiles. Page 4.

'very, very serious consequences" if Iraq does not comply with the Security Council resolutions obligating it to open

to full and unrestricted inspections.

Asked at his daily briefing if the White House was optimistic about a breakthrough, Michael McCurry, the White House spokesman, said: No. But at the same point it is important to make this effort."

Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday that Britain's resolve was "im-movable" on the need for Iraq to comply with UN resolutions on weapons inspec-

Mr. Blair, quoted by Reuters, said he was "delighted" that Mr. Annan was going to see President Saddam Hussein of Iraq but added, "I think we should be very clear - his mission is within these parameters: There must be full compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions on weapons inspections."

Meanwhile, the UN announced that it had begun thinning its presence in Iraq by withdrawing 31 staff members for humanitarian programs from Baghdad. The UN has about 500 staff members. including weapoos inspectors, hased in

Mr. Annan is 10 arrive Thursday in Paris, where he will meet President Jacques Chirac, and then continue Friday to Baghdad for at least two days of talks with Iraqi officials.

He said, "I am also encouraged by

See IRAQ, Page 4



Crewmen aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier George Washington signaling Wednesday in the Gulf that the launching catapult was ready for testing.

A Televised Pep Rally Goes Sour in Heartland

Skepticism on Iraq Shakes Clinton Officials

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS - Top Clinton administration officials encountered unexpectedly hostile questioning — and disruptive shouts from a handful of protesters — when they appeared in front of a large American audience Wednesday to rally support for a possible U.S. military at-

tack against Iraq.
An event planned as a public relations exercise seemed to be close to backfiring on the administration as three cabinet officers struggled to make themselves heard above the shouts of what appeared to be several dozen vocal antiwar demonstrators in the balcontes of the auditorium at Ohio State Uni-

Broadcast around the world on CNN. the often unruly session may have conveyed an impression in many foreign capitals — notably Baghdad — of deepening opposition to military action.

The program, a town meeting that included questions from the audience and telephooe callers, had been designed as a platform for policymakers to explain U.S. policy on Iraq to a middle-American audience. The program was also expected to broadcast a message of U.S. determination and unity in a crisis thar seems to be approaching a military showdown.

Instead, the three officials - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen and the national security adviser, Samuel Berger — often seemed taken aback by the skepticism they encountered, even among armed service Veterans and other questioners who might have been expected to be sympathetic to action.

Applause by the audience of several hundred enabled the discussion, billed as a town meeong, to continue, but the impression of public doubt — and outright hostility among a vocal minority - seemed to dramatize a trend in recent polls of slipping support for the military operation as currently presented by the

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll. hroadcast during the program, showed 69 percent of those surveyed would prefer to see the stalemate over UN weapons inspections resolved through diplomatic pressure and economic sanctions, compared with 25 percent -

down from 40 percent last week — who favored air strikes.

A majority of those questioned thought the United States should use ground troops in the eventuality of con-

See OHIO, Page 4

AGENDA

A U.S. B-1 Bomber Crashes in Kentucky

MARION, Kentucky (AP) - An air force bomber crashed Wednes-day in rural western Kentucky and exploded, air force officials said. The B-1B bomber was flying out of Dyess Air Force Base, near Abilene, Texas. There was no word on the fate of the crew, and no immediate indication of the cause of the crash.

Fund-Raiser Is Indicted

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Democratic fund-raiser, Maria Hsia, was indicated Wednesday by a federal grand jury on charges of arranging to disguise illegal campaign contributions.

The Dollar

New York	Wednesday 0 4 P.M.	previous closs
DM	1.8215	1.8253
Pound	1.638	1.633
Yen	126.38	126.565
FF	6.1072	6.12
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A Trusted Clinton Deputy Faces Starr's Grand Jury

By Brian Knowlton

WASHINGTON — Bruce Lindsey, the deputy White House counsel and a man considered one of President Bill Clinton's most trusted aides, appeared Wednesday before the grand jury investigating the

Monica Lewinsky matter.
The appearance by Mr. Lindsey, who has been close to Mr. Clinton for more than 30 years, raised the question of how far prosecutors could probe in their questioning without Mr. Lindsey asserting that conversations with the president were privileged.

At the White House, the presidential spokesman,

Micbael McCurry, declined to say whether Mr. Lindsey would refuse to answer questions because of concerns about executive privilege. Mr. Lindsey did not invoke executive privilege in the early phase of his appearance, an official said.

The White House, in extended negotiations with the office of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, has reserved the right to assert executive privilege should prosecutors ask Mr. Lindsey or another top official, the deputy chief of staff, John Podesta, about any conversations with Mr. Clinton concerning Ms. Lewinsky.

The grand jury is investigating allegations that Mr. Clinton had an affair with Ms. Lewinsky then sought to influence her to lie about it.

The president has adamantly denied the charges Mr. Lindsey's testimony was interrupted by an apparent conflict over the line of questioning. He and his attorneys protested to the judge supervising the grand jury, who is responsible for resolving any disputes over questioning of witnesses. There was no immediate word whether any of the concerns involved

presidential executive privilege.
In Linle Rock, Arkansas, Mr. Clinton's anorneys have asked a federal judge to dismiss the Paula Jones lawsuit against the president, saying its claim that Mrs. Jones had been sexually harassed lacked legal basis. In

See CLINTON, Page 6

2 Sparkling U.S. Teens Offer a Glimpse of Gold

By Amy Shipley

NAGANO, Japan - Michelle Kwan and Tara Lipinski, two teenage figure skaters still blessedly naive in certain ways, took the ice Wednesday for their first Olympic Games and displayed a competitive maturity that in older skaters is often lacking — or simply lost under the incredible pressure of Olympic com-

After nearly impeccable short programs, Kwan, 17, sat in first place and Lipinski, 15. in second above the third-place Russian Maria Butyrskaya, with the gold medal at stake in the concluding long program on Friday.

Kwan and Lipinski seemed fueled by youthful exuberance, yet controlled by a composure each had at times lacked in competitions over the last 12 months. Lipinski completed a triple flip - which she fell attempting during a traumatic U.S. national championship in January -- with a shout and an irrepressible

See GAMES, Page 22

Prime Minister Aims to Make Italy Competitive Senior government bureaucrats By Alan Friedman will no longer enjoy lifelong employ-ment, and will be put on private-sector-International Herald Tribune ROME - With little fanfare, the style term contracts. Many state emgovernment of Prime Minister Romano Prodi has begun to roll out a series of ployees will face the prospect of being transferred, and responsibility for a large number of services will be shifted free-market reforms to deregulate the retail sector, the stock market and the from Rome to regional and local govemments.

bureaucracy.
"My goal," said Mr. Prodi in an interview here, "is to dismantle this

country piece by piece and then put it back together again. Our philosophy is to make the Italians run, to liberate them from bureaucracy, and to make the country more competitive."

Prodi Rolls Out Reforms

Among the key rule changes announced, mostly under administrative decrees that do not require parliamentary approval:

· Store hours will be lengthened, and

most retailers will no longer need to apply for a license to open a shop. • Italy's small and medium-sized

businesses, which are governed by dozens of regulations, agencies and taxes, will soon be able to resolve their problems at a single office. The Treasury is moving forward

See ITALY, Page 18



Michelle Kwan performing the short program.

Inaction in Tokyo on Economic Rescue Brings Chorus of Protest

By Sandra Sugawara Washington Post Service

TOKYO - Nobody is happy with Japan these

days - not the Americans, not the Southeast Asians, not even the Japanese public. Japan is sitting on the biggest pile of foreign reserves in the world, its families save on average at

twice the rate of American families. Because of that, people are looking to Japan to reignite Asia's growth. But so far, its efforts have disappointed everyone. There has been a rising chorus of complaints from the United States, other Asian countries struggling with crashing econ-

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omies and the Japanese public. The Nihon Keizai Sbirnhun, Japan's leading business newspaper, said the Parliament should quit worrying about

saving face" and pass a hig tax cut. "I think the government is not doing enough," said Juoji Yamamoto, planning manager of a Toyota automobile dealership near Kyoto. With his car sales plummeting and his bank moving to reduce the dealership's credit line, Mr. Yamamoto wants to see the government move quickly to

deregulate the economy. "In any industry with more deregulation, new entries will appear to stimulate the market," Mr. Yamamoto said.

How does he feel about the increasingly loud complaints from foreigners over Japan's domestic economic policy? "Japan should seize on it as a good excuse to deregulate," he said. "Because there are so many vested interests in Japan blocking deregulation, that progress has been slow."

On Friday, Japan will try agaio. The governing Liheral Democratic Party is scheduled to unveil another economic-rescue scheme, an attempt to head off anticipated criticism from finance officials of the Group of Seven industrial countries meeting in London on Saturday. The United States has been leading a drumbeat calling for Japan to adopt policies to spur robust growth.

Although the Nikkei stock-market index dropped Wednesday by 176.82 points, or 1.05 percent, to close at 16,613.89, many traders say they have been waiting on the sidelines for Friday's announcement. But with a weak prime minister, a country engulfed to a growing bribery scandal and a society that prefers consensus to open conflict, hopes for an aggressive jolt to the economy are

fading, analysts say. So far, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has shown little stomach for the bold steps the market and Japan's allies are hoping for. Mr. Hashimoto

See JAPAN, Page 6

Martha Gellhorn: A Life of Wit and Rage

By Mary Blume

ARIS - Martha Gellhorn died Sunday, the day before she had planned to fly to Luxor for some swimming and uncrowded sightseeing since she reckoned that there would be no tourists about after the recent massacre and, although nearly hlind, even she would be able to see the outsized monuments of Karnak.

She was 89, still stunning to look at and listen to and the funniest person I have known as well as the angriest, a unique combination. Her wit was the product of a keen mind and offhand gallantry; her rage, part of the vital best part of a liberal conscience, was against the inability to set things right and she liked lightly to trace it to having had a German governess who was a hrute.

I saw her last on Feb. 5 with two other

friends, the novelist Ward Just, who first met her when both were reporting from Vietnam, and his wife, Sarah Catchpole. We took the Eurostar over to London, where she had lived for many years, to have lunch in an Italian restaurant after drinks in her apartment in Cadogan Square. She looked marvelous and lanky in a dark blne pullover and trousers bought in a market in Wales, where she used to have a house.

She cared a lot about her looks and other people's but if she was rightly vain ("By God, she is a fine-looking woman," Mr. Just said after we left her) it was in her own way, which meant looking great with small effort and less cost. At her 85th birthday party at the Groucho Cluh in London, she wore hlack slacks, a perfect black and white print jacket and pearls. The jacket, she said, dated to Cuernavaca, Mexico, in the 1940s and the pearls were the pop-off kind, from Wool-

Another time she opened her door, superb in a deep red kaftan: Diana Cooper's maid, she explained, had sewn it from cast-off bath towels. In ber dazzling youth in Paris when sbe hadn't a cent, she was dressed free by Schiaparelli — a walking mannequin — and it was in a Schiap suit and a hat with a feather trailing uncomfortably into her face that she first visited the

Roosevelt White House.

UR last lunch hegan with Mr. Just mentioning a future trip to Snn Valley, Idaho, which led into a roaringly funny account of her first days there in 1938 when Averell Harriman was trying to launch it as a year-round resort and visiting movie stars came by to shoot, ineptly. (Martha, of course, was a crack shot). She left Sun Valley in 1939 to cover the war in Finland. As Mr. Just pointed out later, while Martha's thenbusband, Ernest Hemingway, only began his vaunted World War II career in the European theater in 1944, Martha had been there from the start.

She was, Mr. Just says, the greatest war correspondent of the 20th century. It was a role she was never entirely comfortable with: She preferred writing fiction; it was injustice of all kinds and not just the outrages of the battlefield that she cared about: and she felt she had been, as she wrote in a collection, "The Face of War," a "special kind of war profiteer. I was physically lucky and was paid to spend my time with magnificent people." War, she said, "is always worse than I knew how to say,

She was a pacifist until the Spanish Civil War



Her wit was the product of a keen mind and offhand gallantry; her rage was against the inability to set things right.

(Spain still meant more to her than any country, she told me walking back to her flat from the Italian restaurant). She covered seven wars as well as going, at 81, to Panama to discover, after a glance at a battered huilding, that the U.S. Army had lied about the kind of munitions it used. "Martha had the ability to smell out things that other reporters didn't see," says Jonathan Randal, who met her when reporting from Vietnam.

St. Louis, where she was born, meant nothing to her; her family meant a great deal. Her father was a distinguished physician, ber mother had been voted the city's most valuable citizen. Gossip was not allowed at the dinner table, only facts, and if there was a dispute the encyclopedia would be consulted. If anyone complained, Martha or her brothers would cbant, "Self-pity, that way madness lies."

The family example stayed with her for life. '1 knew brave women but none with the same gallantry as Martha. She beld herself to a very strict code, no whining or snivelling or messiness," says the writer Gloria Emerson, who met ber 26 years ago in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Martha, typically, was cleaning out a mutual friend's refrigerator.
When she

that dry-ice way, which camonflaged her deepest feelings, you knew that in some sense she was still

It was through her mother's friendship with

Eleanor Roosevelt that Martha became a frequent visitor to the White House, where the food, except for the chicken sandwiches, was awful, and the domestic and foreign issues (sometimes fearlessly raised by Martha) ur-

Mrs. Gellhorn was adored by Martha's friends, not least because when they were passing through St. Louis from one coast to the other hy train she would welcome them from the platform with a pitcher of dry martinis. Mr. Hemingway, not a generous man, even gave her the manuscript of one of his books. "Thank you, dear," said Mrs. Gellhorn, giving it back, "but I've already read it"

ARTHA roared with laughter when she told me this story. Friends knew enough not to bring up Mr. Hemingway's name, although she did. Once, mixing a salad with a handsome teak and silver fork and spoon, she told me they were the Roosevelts' wedding present. "Ernest took the bowl, which was inscribed. To me." Mr. Hemingway, she said, became overbearing and possessive. "I can't understand what fame does to people. Ernest was funny. Then he wasn't." In 1944 she wrote in a letter to

him:

"I wish we could stop it now, the prestige, the possessions, the knowledge, the victory. And by a miracle return together under the arch at Milan, you so brash in your motorcycle sidecar and 1 badly dressed, fierce, loving By God, how I wish it, the days hard but with that shine on them from not being sure, but of hoping, of believing in fact

in just the things we now so richly have."
Martha's last great piece of journalism, in
1996, in which a character named "E" figures, was set in Spain and Czechoslovakia and was called "Memory." Her own was extraordinary, although she liked to claim she had none at all, having used it all up mem-

orizing a physics book in order to get into Bryn Mawr, which, in any case, she quit in boredom in her junior year.

HE remembered outrages, laughs, friends' problems and yet in her later years she felt useless and so her rage grew and with it a stomacb ulcer. Losing her vision was awful for someone accustomed to striding out on her own and to whom the sights of nature were precious (the bluebells at Kew had been an annual delight). She couldn't see to type and could write no other way.

"I am really too old, I have outlived my life," she said in October. Her lucidity could be dismaying.
"I've never had anything life-threatening, only lifedemeaning," she added.

Last Saturday, I telephoned to wish her a good

trip to Luxor and she said she wasn't feeling well enough to go. I asked her something about the 1939 war in Finland and she gave a long, and in places very funny, reply followed by her thoughts on how the course of World War II might have changed had Czechoslovakia had a different leader.

"Everything is wrong in history, everything," she said. 'It's always wrong. The people who run it are too stupid to be true and the upshot is that the the neck. Now I have to go be am feeling rather ill. Thank you for calling." Her manners were perfect, always. Are you being looked after, Martha? I asked. "Yes," she said. "I'm fine."

of Paula Jon gercareer Wasn't Hear Sudan Moves to Restore Some Political Freedom

By James C. McKinley Jr. New York Times Service

KHARTOUM, Sudan - Nine years after it seized power in a military coup, the Islamic party that has molded Sudan into a religious state is enacting a new constitution that officials here maintain will allow a return to party politics and greater political freedom.

Skeptics among opposition leaders and diplomats say it remains to be seen if the reforms being debated this week will be carried out.

But the Sudanese National Congress met this week to approve a raft of constitutional reforms that government leaders say will guarantee freedom of speech and assembly.

Meeting under an enormous tent behind a conference hall here in the capital, the 6,500 members of the congress, which is dominated by the governing party, debated and passed several constitutional proposals Tuesday that try to marry the principles of an Islamic state with the principles of free speech and party politics.

We want to build a model state where you can act out fully what we profess as a Muslim and at the same time, because it is part of the religion, give everyone else their freedom," said Sayed Khateeb, the foreign secretary. "We want to prove that you can be an Islamic state and still at the same time grant freedom to others that have difrent beliefs."

Political parties have been banned since 1989, when the National Islamic Front seized power in a military coup and toppled a democratically elected goveriment. Since then, the front's leaders have labored to create a state ruled ac-cording to the Koran's tenets, enforcing its vision of an Islamic revolution with a

sophisticated security apparatus.

But a protracted civil war with Christian and animist rebels in the south, who are fighting for greater antonomy, racial equality and religious freedom, has drained the government's resources and shackled the economy with low wages and skyrocketing prices.

For the government, the war worsened two years ago when several northern opposition leaders in Khartourn went into exile and opened an eastern front, sending rebel cadres to attack Sudan from Eritrea.

At the same time, most Western democracies, led by the United States, have cut off aid to the country and isolated the government because of allegations that Sudan harbors Islamic terrorists from all over the Middle

The pressure has taken its toll. Most people in Khartoum grumble openly about the government's handling of the economy and the seemingly endless war, which consumes hundreds of lives and at least \$1 million a day.

been some tentative signs that the government is loosening its grip on the political debate. In the last year, for instance, more and more criticism has appeared in the eight newspapers published in the capital, and in one case the courts strack down a government ban on an opposition newspaper.

The government has also shown a new willingness to end the war through negotiations: In April 1997, Khartouth signed a peace agreement with several small rebel factions, promising for the first time that the south would be exempt from Islamic laws and that a referendum on independence for the southem provinces would be held.

At the same time, the government has reed to resume peace talks in Nairobi with the main rebel group, led by John Garang, who says he will accept nothing less than a secular system. This week the government committed itself to a new constitution with some guarantees of civil liberties, including freedom of re-

ligion, assembly and speech.
Still, the proposals being discussed contain several loopholes and caveats. For instance, while the freedom of assembly is guaranteed, the government could still crack down on opposition parties if the courts determine they receive money from other countries, advocate violent conflict or "go out of the bounds of religion."

Hassan Turabi, speaker of Parliament and the ideological architect of the 1989 coup, said political parties in theory would be allowed to operate as soon as the new constitution is passed by Par-liament in April. But he added that the front will fight hard to undercut the political appeal of other parties.

"There will be a campaign against anything like that — a political, moral, social, cultural campaign - but no legal bar," he said.

Sierra Leone Leader May Return Shortly

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone -United Nations special envoy arrived Wednesday in Freetown and said President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah could be back in Sierra Leone within two weeks now that the military junta that onsted

him has been put to flight.
Francis Keller, a UN special envoy of the secretary-general, said the West African states whose Ecomog force overran the junta were trying to get Me. Kabbah back quickly.

The final tonches for security atrangements are being made and when they are finished he should be on his way," Mr. Keller said. "I am told that within two weeks they will probably have finished the arrangements: "I have been very impressed with

Ecomog and how they have taken the simation in hand so quickly," he said of the Nigeria-led West African peacekeepers.

Mr. Keller's team is in Freetown to by officials of various rebef agencies.

restore Mr. Kabbah, who was overthrown in a coup May 25. **MERICAN** assess relief needs. He was accompanied TOPICS

meBlecks, Washington de athe Top surname

Series Series

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- Paris

Taipei Pressed to Give Up Airline Stake

TAIPEI - Officials and lawmakers on Wednesday called on the government to unload its majority share in China Airlines, charging that its confused and divisive structure results in poor management.

An Airbus A300 operated by Taiwan's national carrier crashed Monday night while trying to land in Taipei as it returned from Bali. All 196 people on board and seven people on the ground

The crash was a hlow to the airline's efforts to improve its safety record after a series of mishaps culminated in a crash in Japan in 1994 that killed 264 people.

Relatives of the dead gathered at a morgue Wednesday. Many of the bodies were dismembered and badly burned in ficult." the crash, but relatives complained about the amount of time identification was Airlines, has offered to resign over the crash, but relatives complained about

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sengers have been identified.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the government-controlled China Airlines fund should sell its 71.5 percent stake in the carrier.

Mr. Hsn, a former deputy prime minister, criticized the Transportation Ministry for failing to resolve conflicts among the ministry, the airline and the foundation, and for continuing to allow the company to operate in a gray area neither clearly public nor private.

"The current structure creates a situanion where none of the share owners really feel it's their company," Mr. Hsn said. "Management of China Airlines under such conditions is extremely dif-

taking. So far, the bodies of 103 pas- Taiwan's worst civil air disaster ever. Opposition lawmakers, and even

some legislators of the governing Nationalist Party, have demanded Mr. Foundation Fund, Hsu Li-teb, said the Hsu's resignation and have called for the government-controlled foundation to be dissolved outright.

A member of the legislature's Trans-

portation Committee, Chen Chi-mai, said the lack of accountability began with the foundation's board of directors, who have no governmental oversight and enjoy immunity from lawsuits.

"Hsu is too friendly with the foundation. We need someone independent and adversarial to clean things up," Mr. Chen said in an interview.

Lax corporate culture and slack safety standards show through in the attitudes

of pilots and crew, he said.
The government ordered China Airlines' Airbus fleet grounded on Tuesday.

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

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rhofen	80	100 64	Fair	Art Decelo	Var Vor		some new some upper pistes good best skiing on north techni slopes	Livigno M. di Campiglio		140 230	Fair good	good	veried veried	20/1 19/1	all high runs ok., low worn in pl ; good in most areas: lower bit :
rgurgi Ibach	40 20	,150 80	Fair	good	varied Var	17/2	light new snow: good upper runs north lacing/upper slopes good skiing	Madesimo Selva	80 5	335 100	gnod Feir	good p		25/1 19/1	trastly good sking with all lifts of all fills/runs o., mostly good skin
Anton ·	40	170		stustry	Var		north facing slopes good, lower thin	Norway .						•	
eda .								Geilo	60	_70	good	THE STREET	Ver	16/2	g. anow all runs: bit wat low do
Louise stier	74 120	115 290	good	good p			g, skiling on packed snow; all lifts o. good skiling in krash snow at altitude	Switzerland Crans Montana	15	215	Good		2011/10	21/1	good skiing continues in most a
nce	_				_	_		Davos	55	120	Good	Art	Polici		light new snow; good elding mor
d'Huez	85	255	Good	Art	Var	21/1		Klosters	15	110	Fair		varied		bast on upperharth facing slope
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)e:	55	195	good	WOIT	varied	21/1	great in fizine bowl: links still open	Zermatt	35	110	Fair	soft	varied	20/1	mostly good, hard/icy paiches a
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e Cheveller	70	220	Booq	good p		197	good all upper runs: low parity soft	Crested Butte		150	good	good p			all Its open, good daing
ania:	18	100	Fair			21/1	best above 2000m; law runs soft pm	Mammoth		420	good	good p			al 150 trails and 18/29 Als ont
es	102	180	Fair	rocky		207	good glacier, stones on most runs	Park City		220	good	. good p			al Returns open: yery good st
l'Isère	80	230	Fair			2071	good upper runs, thin low down	Vail		150	good	good p			everything open: v good condition
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TRAVEL UPDATE

France Goes After Speeding Drivers

PARIS (AFP) - The French government announced Wednesday a bill aimed at halving the number of deaths from road accidents, with the threat of six months in jail for a second

offense of excessive speeding.

Drivers caught speeding at 50 kilometers (30 miles) an hour over the authorized limit more than once could face up to six months in jail and a fine of 50,000 francs (\$8,200), Transport

Minister Jean-Claude Gayssot said.

The penalty is one of five major measures contained in the hill approved by the cahinet Wednesday, Mr. Gayssot said.

The bill, which goes to Parliament, seeks to halve within five years the annual average of 8,000 driving deaths in France.

A Soaked Florida Fears for Season

PALM CITY, Florida (NYT) — The long reach of El Niño has cast a shadow across the Sunshine State, causing concern that the impending heart of Florida's tourist season will be as wet and windy as the last several weeks.

Thunderstorms spawned in the Pacific weather system have rolled across the state frequently this month, drenching Florida's midsection and prompting two consecutive days of More rain fell on the state in the first two weeks of February

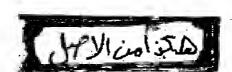
than normally falls in the full month, the National Weather Service said. There may be no learn as the heavy influx of winter travelers and spring break vacationers begins. The weather pattern is not expected to change significantly until late in spring, said James Lushane, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Miami.

Slovenia's tourist income fell 4 percent in 1997, to \$1.18 billion, despite a 10 percent increase in the number of visits, the Chamber of Economy said. The drop was due largely to the strong U.S. dollar and lower duty-free sales, gasoline sales along the Italian border and casino revenues. (Reuters)

WEATHER



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THE AMERICAS

an opposition newspaper.

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from will fight hard to more where she worked.

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In the brief, Mr.

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Alama Tejan Kabbah of being sued." from his owen out to flight nounce - Neller, a UN spender the secretary general said defi-

The Amistate - whose Ecomogical term for must were think a. Kathan has dank The final touches for seapout an alleged affair if she were asked by Mrs. Jones's lawyers.

"We want to get this case resolved and lessived puickly," said Robert Rement, a Climon anomaly.

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the state of the s Afr. Koller viert is in fine and the court needs He am mark in the second

The state of the s 44.0%

ical Freedon Of Paula Jones Lawsuit

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The government has also be supported a peace agreement will support in the first time that the south words agreed to resume peace talks at the same time, the government commined useful items than a secular system base than a secular system base contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and seembly is guaranteed the freedom contains several loopholes and contains loopholes and contains loopholes

vocate violent conflict or public glimpse of the evidence collected vocate violent conflictor public glimpse or me evidence of that bounds of religion." Bour during five months of discovery that bounds of religion." Hassan Turabi, speaker of his court, said political range papers cootained excerpts from Mrs. coup. said political pane papers contained excerpts from the world be allowed to observe the papers deposition — including graphic would be allowed to operate as the new constitution is marked. An Clinton — and affidavits from the new constitution is passely with Mr. Clinton — and affidavits from history will fish; hard to the supervisors in the Arkansas agency

There will be a campana argued that the evidence-gathering anything like that — a polonic phase that ended Jan, 30 showed the Social contains campaign by case was a "frivolous claim" and should be rejected to protect both the White House and working women. If the case was permitted to go in trial, they

Sierra Leone Lea wrote, all future presidents "could be subjected to litigation and trial based on similar nnsupportable claims."

"Such a result ultimately also would redound to the detriment of working women," they added, "for male officials and executives would begin to the detriment of working women," they added, "for male officials and executives would begin to the detriment of working women," they added, "for male officials and executives would begin to the detriment of working women," they added, "for male officials and executives would begin to the detriment of working women," they added, "for male officials and executives would be subjected to litigation and trial based on similar nature." FREETOWN. Sterra Long, ficials and executives would besitate kindred Network special energy before meeting or traveling alone with Wednesday or Freetown and them for business purposes, out of fear

#224 ... Stern Leone within ... Mr. Clinton filed the motion for sumthat the multip lens : that the multip lens : that the been but to high along the suit and present his side of the story to the public. The case led directly to the crisis endangering Mr. Clinton's presidency when federal investigators began looking into whether he tried to obstruct justice hy urging a White House intern. Monica Lewinsky, to lie

Economic mests of A motion for summary indement is But given the high profile to the how to mests standard for a defendant after discovery.

Standard for a defendant after discovery.

We shall but the paper's telegraphed the legal with may opt for a said the New Mest Amer's strategy Mr. Clinton will employ even if leave it to a jury to decide.

AMERICAN

TOPICS

Among Blacks, Washington

When Gregory Washington met

Craig Washington, he saw something

he bad never observed in someone

with his last name: white skin. "I

thought he was going to be black,"

said Gregory, an African-American,

of his first meeting with a new co-

worker at a company in Torrance,

California, "I told him he was the first

white Washington I'd ever seen. I

Gregory's assumption was not ill-

founded, reports the Los Angeles

Times. Ninety-three percent of Amer-

icans with the last name Washington

are black, according to the Census

Bureau, which says that makes it the

highest concentration of black people

But genealogists and historians, not

to mention the 116,000 black Wash-

ingtons, know frustratingly little

about the ironic prevalence among

blacks of the surname made famous

26 Part of an

29 Hardly a

per surname.

ACROSS

1 Where Caesar landed, 46 B.C.

joked that we must be brothers."

Ranks as the Top Surname

he fails and has to go to trial. While the Jones camp has devoted considerable time and energy to finding other women who purportedly had sexual encounters with Mr. Clinton, the president's team put forward the argument that Mrs. Jones not only was unharmed hut also was actually happy after her meeting with the governor in a private suite at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock during a state economic conference on May 8, 1991.

Employment records cited by Mr. Clinico's lawyers showed that Mrs. Jones, a \$4.93-an-hour document examiner at the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission, received satisfactory reviews and raises totaling 25 percent during her two years on the job. Statements solicited from supervisors denied that Mr. Clinton or his aides told them to treat her badly or even menconed her at all.

"No one from the governor's office, including Governor Clinton, ever requested that I take any job action with respect to Ms. Jones, adverse or otherwise," Clydine Pennington, her direct boss, said in a sworn statement.

Mrs. Jones's lawyers have 14 days to respond to the Clinton motion and said Tuesday that they could not discuss it in detail because they had not seen it. But her lead attorney, Donovan Campbett Jr., said Mrs. Jones did suffer on the

"She did not obtain the same kind of raises and advancement that similarly situated employees obtained," he said.

Mrs. Jones also has wimesses whose testimony may helplend credence to her story. Two friends have said she told them shortly after the incident that Mr. Clinton had made a pass at her and that she seemed distraught about it.

Because she waited three years after the episode, Mrs. Jones could not file her lawsuir under the standard sexual harassment code, so instead she claimed that her civil rights in the workplace were violated by virtue of sexual harassment; that Mr. Clinton conspired with his bodyguard, a state trooper, to deprive her of her constitutional rights, and that she suffered severe emotional distress from the incident.

To prove her civil rights were ahridged, Mrs. Jones would have to show that as a result of refusing an employer's advance that she either was the victim of ''quid pro quo'' discrim-ination in which she suffered 'tangible job 'detriment" or was subjected to a hostile or abusive work environment.

Mr. Clinton's lawyers are privately confident that they have disproved any quid pro quo discrimination, though the hostile workplace claim is more open to

But given the high profile of the case. U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright may opt for a safe route and

by George Washington, a founder of

the nation but also a plantation slave-

After the Civil War, when the pas-

sage of the 13th Amendment freed 4

million slaves, most had been barred

by their owners from having last

names. Many picked the surnames of

the former presidents Jeffersoo and Jackson. Washington also became a

Some historians believed that the

freedmen, who had deliberately been

kept uneducated, were unaware that

George Washington had owned 130 slaves, but did know he was the

founder of the Union that crushed the

slave-holding Confederacy. They

may also have known that he set his

slaves free upon his death. Other his-

torians say the name was picked as a

In light of allegations that Thomas Jefferson sired children both white

and black, it should be said that the

same suspicions do not surround George Washington. He may have

been the father of the country, but that

was all. Many historians believe he

Wang Jian, 28, became something of a hero in New York's

popular choice.



Senators Dianne Feinstein, right, and Orrin Hatch, center, along with the actor Paul Reiser, taking part in a Los Angeles news conference where they unveiled the proposed bill to protect people from photographers.

A Bill to Keep the Paparazzi in Check

2 Senators Promote Legislation to Put a Leash on 'Celebrity Stalkers'

fortune seekers with cameras."

Southern California.

for more than a year, was in response to

complaints by celebrities in recent years.

Ms. Feinstein said the death of Diana,

Princess of Wales, in Paris last summer,

stimulated efforts for a law to deal with

'an increasingly aggressive cadre of

In an attempt to pass constitutional

muster, the proposal was narrowly draf-

ted with help from leading constitu-

tional law professors, including Erwin

Chemerinsky of the University of

reckless endangerment, and there's no constitutional right to trespass," Mr. Chemerinsky said. "This doesn't do anything to offend the First Amendment."

There's no consomional right to

By Todd S. Purdum New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES - A hipartisan pair of high-powered U.S. senators have come to Hollywood to promote lcgislation intended to curb the abuses of paparazzi who stalk celebrities. The bill would make it a federal crime to chase someone in a way that risks bodily harm in an effort to photograph or record the person for commercial purposes.

There is a line between legitimate news gathering and invasion of privacy, between snapping a picture of someone in a public place and chasing them to the point where they fear for their safety," said Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, who joined Secator Orrin Hateb, Republican of Utah and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, at a news conference Tuesday at the office of the Screen Actors Guild here.

Their hill would also change the definition of trespassing, making a photo-grapher's use of a telephoto lens grounds for a civil trespassing suit if the pictures could not otherwise be taken without setting foot on private property.

' If photographers chased someone, the bill would impose mandatory prison sentences of at least 20 years in the case of a death, and at least five years in the case of physical injury.

Chinatowo when he stood on the steps

of City Hall recently and set off a

string of firecrackers, only to be ar-

rested on four misdemeanor charges.

The city had hanned the use of

firecrackers during the Chinese New Year. But many Chinese-Americans

say firecrackers are central to the

rituals of the celebration. When Mr.

Wang emerged from a police station,

people stood in line to shake his hand.

The city stands by the ban, citing a risk

of injury or even death. In Chinatown,

people say the small firecrackers com-

Is it the politicians? The lawyers,

who occupy a 80-page section of the

Yellow Pages? Lovers making late-

night phone calls? Whatever the rea-

son, residents of the District of

Columbia spend more time than those

of any of the 50 states speaking on the

telephone each year. Washington res-

idents spend an average 435 bours a

year with phone to ear, compared with

249 in Maryland, the next highest. At

the other end of the spectrum are the

residents of Iowa, South Dakota and

the notoriously reticent people of

Maine, all of whom spend less than

Brian Knowlton

150 hours a year on the line.

monly used are relatively safe.

Health Experts Oppose Yielding to Tobacco Firms

By David E. Rosenbaum New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - Two of the leading American authorities on public nealth, Dr. C. Evereit Koop, the former surgeon general, and David Kessler, a former Food and Drug Administratioo commissioner, have announced that they opposed giving tohacco companies protection against lawsuits.

A lawyer for the tobacco industry said late Tuesday that without such legal protection, the companies would fight in court any effort by Congress to restrict their advertising or prevent them from markenog cigarenes to teenagers.

The competing news conferences, held with Congress in recess this week and lawmakers undecided about how and whether in proceed with antismoking legislation, came on the same day that the Journal of the American Medical Association published two studies about the influence of tobacco

advertising on youth smoking.

One study found that tobacco companies advertised hrands popular with young people in magazines that had a high proportion of teenage readers. The other study concluded that exposure to cigarette advertising was a significant factor in whether teenagers took up

smoking.
At their news conference on Capitol Hill, Dr. Koop and Dr. Kessler presented a letter to congressional leaders calling for "fundamental changes in tobacco policy based solely and exclusively on what is good for the public's health without making unnecessary conces-

sions to the tobacco industry. Their letter was signed by representatives of 20 organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, American Heart and Lung associations and the National Campaign for Tobacco-Free

Dr. Kessler, dean of the Yale Medical

School, was especially emphatic in his opposition to giving the tobacco coorpanies legal protection. "For the first time, Congress needs to enact tobacco legislation without asking the industry's permission. he said. There should be no concessions to this industry."

Mr. Chemerinsky observed that vi-

persistently physically following or

olators would have to be shown to be

chasing a nerson in a manner that causes

the person to have a reasonable fear of

bodily injury" to be found guilty of the criminal endangerment provision.

telephoto lenses or remote listening

devices as grounds for civil trespassing suits would apply only to "personal or familial activity" on private property that could not otherwise be observed.

Still, the local chapter of the Amer-

ican Civil Liberties Union opposes the

hill on the grounds that the offenses it

seeks to preveot are already adequately

covered by state law.

The provision establishing use of

He repeatedly avoided answering wbether he would change his mind if such concessions proved to be the only way to obtain restraints on tobacco ad-

Last year, the tobacco industry signed an accord with the anorneys general of about 40 states in which the industry agreed to restrict advertising and take other steps to limit smoking. The accord is being rewritten by Coogress.

In it, the companies agreed, among other things, to stop advertisements featuring cartoon characters or celebrities. to discontinue outdoor advertisements and to restrict advertisements in magazines often read by teenagers to text-only, black-and-white layouts.

In exchange, the agreement prohibits class-action lawsuits, limits claims for puriove damages based on past industry conduct and puts a ceiling on how much the companies would have to pay each year in compensatory damages.

As more and more documents come out showing the extent to which the tobacco companies tried over the years to get young people hooked on smoking, the industry has lost almost all political

support in Congress. Their effort to target 14-year-olds is frankly reprehensible. News Gingrich, the House speaker and a Republican of Georgia, said last week. "I think that they are weaker than they have ever been in this city, and I think that there is virtually no sentiment for in any way listening favorably to the tobacco companies."

But without protection against lawsuits, said Meyer Koplow, a lawyer who represents the industry, the companies would never volontarily agree to restrict their advertising.

POLITICAL NOTES

Starr Wants Notes

WASHINGTON - Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor, wants the Supreme Court to clear the way for him to get notes from a meeting that Vincent Foster, the late White House aide to President Bill Clinton, had with a lawyer nine days before Mr. Foster's suicide in 1993.

Mr. Starr wants to determine whether presidential aides lied about whether Hillary Rodham Clinton had a role in a White House purge of its travel office staff. She as said she had no tole.

Mr. Foster's conversation with the lawyer, Jim Hamilton, focused on those firings, but Mr. Hamilton is exercising an anomey-client privilege against disclosure. Last month he asked the Supreme Court to help him keep three pages of notes out of Mr. Starr's hands.

In a response filed Tuesday, the prosecutor argued that no such privilege of confidentiality exists once a client dies. And he told the justices that granting Mr. Hamilton's appeal will only 'delay an important grand jury investigation which touches on vital maners of public concern."

Back to the Basics

WASHINGTON — The Christian Coathion, buoyed by its victory against gay civil rights legislation in Maine, is planning a return to the basics; church recruiting and social issues.

After private meetings with 65 state and local leaders last weekend, the conservative grass-roots group decided that the best way to raise money and increase its electoral clout is by talking to churchgoers about such subjects as abortion, gay rights, pomography and

The Families 2000 strategy calls for recruiting 100,000 church liaisons by November 2000. The coalition also plans to distribute 45 million voter guides during this year's congressional elections.
"Our goal in all of this is to ensure that local, state and federal officials of both parties be held more accountable on pro-family issues," said the coalitioo's executive di-

rector, Randy Tate. During the ballot fight in Maine, the group identified 77,000 new supporters through 900 churches in

That led not only to repeal of the anti-discrimination law, but also to the prospect of new dooors filling the coalition's depleted coffers, Mr. Tate said.

Quote/Unquote

Lucianne Goldberg, a New York book agent and friend of Linda Tripp on why Ms. Tripp provided prosecutors with recordings of conversations with Monica Lewinsky: "She panicked and she wanted immunity, and she had to have a lawyer now who knew how to get her immunity on the tapes."

U.S. Charges Trio **As Spies for East**

Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — A former Pentagon lawyer, her union-representative husband and a former U.S. Army paralegal have been indicted on charges of conspiring to spy for East Germany, the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

The indictment, returned Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, indicated that the defendants, arrested in an FBI sting operation last October, had rejected the opportunity of hargaining to lesser charges, legal

Attorneys for two of the defendants denied the allegations and said they would attack the legality of the Foreign

Intelligence Surveillance Act.
The defendants are James Michael
Clark, 49, a former army paralegal;
Theresa Maria Squillacote, 40, a former senior staff attorney for a deputy undersecretary of defense, and her husband, Kurt Alan Stand, 43, a former regional representative of the Interna-

tional Unioo of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations.

CROSSWORD

25 Throws a party

26 A goner

42 More wary

46 Non-P.C. suffix

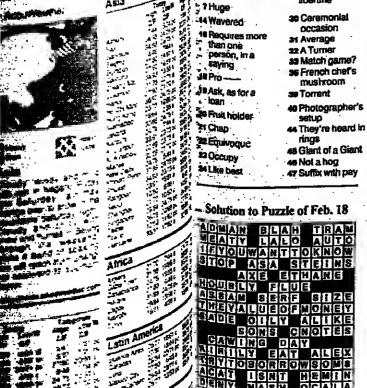
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O New York Titnes/Edited by Will Shortz.

ss Feedbox

57 lt can make a' molehilt out of a mountain

Away From Politics

 The U.S. government will soon begin replacing millions of Border Crossing Cards with state-of-the-art documents that use compact-disk technology to store information for crossing of the Mexican border. The replacements, called "laser visa" cards, will have security features intended to make them much more difficult to counterfeit. The cards are issued only to

• The Newark Police Department is paying gun owners to turn in their weapons, and it has collected 213 firearms at a cost of \$15,725.

 Mairead Corrigan Macguire, the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was arrested and jailed after refusing to leave a federal prison in a show of support for a jailed peace activist, Philip Berrigan. Ms. Macguire visited Mr. Berrigan on Mon-day at the Petershurg Federal Correctional Institution in Virginia, where he is serving a two-year sentence for van-dalizing a navy destroyer. When she refused to leave, prison officials and FBI agents took her to the city jail and held her on a charge of trespassing. Judge Karen Williams of U.S. District Court dismissed the charge and freed Ms. Macguire. (AP)

• A federal judge in Denver has scheduled a March 25 bearing to decide what guidelines he will follow in sentencing Terry Nichols for the Oklahoma City bombing. Mr. Nichols says he should serve four to six years in prison, the maximum for the manslaughter conviction, while prosecutors say he for the manslaughter conviction, should spend the rest of his life in prison for his conspiracy (AP)

Is the Internet a threat or a boon to telephone companies?

Don't miss the sixth in a series of sponsored pages in the IHT on electronic business.

February 25 **BUSINESS TO e-BUSINESS: TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

If you missed the previous page, "Business to e-Rusiness: Entreprise Communities," fax or e-mail your mailing address for a *free* reprint. Fax: +33 1 41 43 92 13 / E-Mail: supplements@iht.com



By John Mintz

WASHINGTON - The B-2 bomber, at \$2 billion a copy, is the most expensive airplane ever built and perhaps history's most intimidating combat aircraft. It is ready to fly in any air war against Iraq, but the U.S. military has revealed no plans for that. And therein lies a mystery that may reveal as much about internal Pentagon politics and budgetary tactics as military strategy, military and defense

industry officials say.

Pentagon officials who favor the B-2's deployment in the Gulf say some military officers are afraid that if the airplane does well, its success could reopen discussion about building more than the 21 B-2s on order, threatening billions destined for the air force's prized project of today, the F-22 fighter. A poor performance, on the other hand, could be a humiliating and costly failure.

'If it does badly, and it crashes, you'd have a \$2 billion smoking hale in the desert, which could be a bit embarrassing," an air force official said.
"Or if it does beautifully, there would B-2s, and that undoubtedly would inprobably would involve a 36-hour deeper reasons why they believe the aircraft. Eighteen have been built.

Some Fear Bomber Will Work Too Well, Others See '\$2 Billion Hole in the Desert'

such considerations have a role in the decision whether to deploy the colnssal hlack, bat-winged aircraft. The service's formal position is that "the B-2 has been declared operational and is available to the war fighters should it be called upon," said Captain Leo Dev-ine, a spokesman for the service.

But inside the air force and the Pentagoo wbere war plans are drawn, a hitter debate is raging about the B-2's deployment, military officials said.

Its backers say the B-2 is a perfect weapon for an air war in which avoiding risks to pilots is a top concern, since the "stealthy" B-2 evades radar and stands little chance of being shot down. It can carry 16 2,000-pound bombs, or eight 5,000-pound bombs that can be used for "hunker-husting" of underground compounds.

fringe nn the budgets of other air force airplanes that we want to build."

The air force officially denies that the would not impose a burden on the budgets of other air force. The sair force officially denies that the sair force officially denies that the sair force of the budgets of other air force are round-trip flight from its home at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, its use would not impose a burden on the budgets of other air force. Gulf allies skittish about allowing U.S. jets to carry out bombing raids that might inflame other Arah countries.

But the B-2 continues to inspire more skepticism than awe among other Pentagon officials.

Military planners are highly riskaverse, and vastly prefer to choose for dangerous missions aircraft that have been proved in war, military officials said. Nine years after its inaugural flight, the B-2 has never flown in combat. There are also some minor lingering questions about the reliability of stealth characteristics of the B-2's most recently upgraded version.

Two years agn the B-2's radar-ab-sorbing skin peeled back in the rain, but officials say that problem has been repaired in the new model.

The B-2's proponents inside and out-

plane is not in the U.S. order of battle. They said that its success would imperil financing for other projects, chiefly the \$70 billioo F-22 fighter program, the air force's top priority.
"The B-2 threatens the F-22 crown

jewel," said one pro-B-2 air force targeting expert."There are folks at senior levels in the air force who are pushing for the B-2," including leaders of the service's Air Combat Command and air war planners at the U.S. Central Command, which is in charge of the attack, an air force general said.

Asked if the B-2's \$2 billion price

makes it too risky to use, he replied, bought the thing. If you're not going to risk using them, send them to Davis-Monthan and make sure nothing ever happens to them." Davis-Monthan is an air force base in Arizona, where decommissioned warplanes are stored.

'The B-2 is absolutely perfect for this mission," added another air force general, who said he believes senior De-fense Department and National Security Council officials have argued against its use because "if you demonstrate its great capabilities, it would reopen their

IRAO: Annan Encouraged

Continued from Page 1

the message coming from Baghdad that they are prepared to engage me con-structively to find a solution."

He offered no details beyond saying that "obviously this is not going to be an

Mr. Annan said that be would not be leaving for Iraq if he did not hope that his mission would succeed. "I would have saved the organization some money otherwise, the secretary-general said. He expressed satisfaction that what he

termed the unanimity of the Security Council had been re-established. That was a reference to the consensus that was reached Tuesday among the five permanent members on oral guidelines for Mr. Annan to take to his meetings with

The United States and Britain have insisted that no limits be put on the weapons inspectors of the UN Special Commission, known as Unscom, and that their authority not be diluted or

After four meetings in less than a week, China, France and Russia accepted this in some form.

Iraq, which closed eight so-called presidential sites to inspectors as symbols of its national sovereignty, earlier floated a compromise through the Russians that the compounds could be searched once during a limited 60-day period, provided that the searches were carried out not by the Unscom teams, hut by diplomats and experts who would report directly to the secretary-general. Washington and London rejected this proposal as a ploy to circumvent the inspectors most familiar with Iraq's clandestine programs to develop pro-scribed chemical and biological

The formula that Mr. Annan is taking to Baghdad would allow the diplomats and other experts to go along, but only as observers, when Unscom inspectors enter the presidential residences. The formula also says that such searches will not be curtailed.

The United States made it clear that it would challenge any agreement with Iraq that deviated from the principles of unrestricted access to all sites, including the presidential sites, or that compromised the integrity of the UN inspection

program.
"I did not ask for a mandate," Mr. Annan said. "Right from the beginning, I was acting oo the basis of the secretarygeneral's authority and my desire to use my good offices.

But an American official said the collective advice given to Mr. Annan was consistent with the Clintoo administration's position that Baghdad must comply with all its promises made in the Security Council resolution that ended the Gulf War in 1991.

The British representative, John Weston, said that be was very pleased with consensus reached by the five permanent members on what to tell Mr. Annan.

'We know that he is a very senior person in this organization who was elected by us all." Mr. Weston said "and we have great confidence in his

Iraq, which bave gone largely unremarked in public.

Discussing the proposal to allow observers to accompany the UN inspectors, and secure Israel disposed to make fresh a British official said: "So loog as Unscom gets in, we don't mind a few men in

suits going along for the ride."
The United States and Britain decided that they would oot object to Mr. Anmeted out to an implacable foe is clood-ing analysis of the probable outcome of a recognizes that there are 'red lines' that Washington and London are unwilling

One is that oo limits can be set oo the duration or scope of the inspections,

which Baghdad has tried to restrict. The American and British positioo has been that, far from becoming more flexible, as Mr. Annan bas urged, the two powers are prepared to undertake military strikes unless Iraq backs down and that it is incumbent on the countries that oppose military action to come up



Kofi Annan discussing in New York his hopes for his mission to Baghdad.

CNN Coproduction With White House Riles Competitors

WASHINGTON — Has it come to this: American preparations for war as a oetwork production?

work staged a town meeting Wednesday with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Sec-retary William Coben and the national security adviser, Samuel Berger. It was a CNN exclusive from start to finish; no other national television outlet could broadcast from the Ohio State University gather-

Asked about the CNN arrangement, the White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, said that, as on previous occasions, the administration "worked with one network to figure out how we could get as large an audience, international and domestic, for this particular event." Another factor, he said, is that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and his

Frank Sesno, CNN's Washington hurean chief, said a White House official sounded him out last week about having the oetwork host a

The session featured both audience questions and viewer calls for the three members of the U.S. ad-ministration's national security team, who were attempting to make a public case for possible U.S. air strikes against Baghdad in the con-

standard time (1900 GMT) on Wednesday, was anchored by Bernard Shaw and Judy Woodruff. The spe-cial was shown in CNN markets around the world.

that others don't like it, but that's the

That is the view of some of CNN's competitors as the cable net-

Moreover, television stations were limited to two minotes of excerpts from the 90-minute forum. and any highlights had to bear the CNN logo.

"It certainly reeks of favoritism," said Kim Hume, Washington bureao chief of Fox News. "It's just odd that the government would go to CNN and ask them to broadcast a town meeting, because CNN has limited reach. It seems they look at CNN as an adjunct of the Voice of America or something."

"I'd think in an extraordinary situation like this that they would want as broad an audience as possible," said Bruce Drake, managing editor for news at National Public Radio. "To come to some sort of exclusive arrangement with one network boggles my mind. Given the degree of magnitude bere preparing the nation for military action and the possibility of lives lost - you doo't play these kind of

aides are known to watch CNN.

towo meeting "in the beartland" about the Iraqi situation. He said the administration suggested bolding it at Ohio State.

tinoing standoff over restrictions oo United Nations weapons inspectors. "Showdown with Iraq: An In-ternational Town Meeting," which aired on CNN at 2 P.M. eastern

"This is our event, and we're sorry

way it goes," Mr. Sesno said.

Officials Heckled

Continued from Page 1

flict - an option repeatedly rejected by Mr. Cohen during the broadcast. Hecklers interrupted the top officials several times, at one point stopping Mrs. Albright from talking for several minutes, The Associated Press reported

from Columbus, Ohio. "Could you please tell these people. I'd be very happy to talk with them when this is nver," Mrs. Albright said.
To illustrate President Saddam Hus-

sein's history of using weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Cohen showed the audience a picture of an Iraqi woman holding a dead child in her arms. He said they had been gassed by Mr. Saddam's forces. He described the picture as "Madonna and child, Saddam Hussein-style."

Mr. Berger said the United States was seeking to protect the world's long-term interests in limiting the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

"In the 21st century, the community of nations may see more and more of this very kind of threat that Iraq poses now, the rogue state," Mr. Berger said, adding: "If we fail to respond, Saddam and all those who fallow will believe that they can threaten the security of a vital region with impunity. But if we act now limits to UN weapons inspectors, showing that one is so large it could overlay much of London. Otherwise,

I fear it will," said Tony Benn, a Labor member.

Israelis Display Doubts **Over Punishing Saddam**

Many Fear U.S. Might Emerge Diminished

By Lee Hockstader Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM - President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, having rained 39 Scud missiles onto this country during the Gulf War in 1991, takes pride of place among Israel's most despised ecemies. Yet, for some Israelis, including those

who have served in top ranks in the country's military and intelligence estransgressions past and present is tempered by nagging doubts.
Few believe U.S. air raids alone

would do lasting damage to Iraq's ability and perbaps even to its apparent determination to develop horrifying weapons. Almost no one thinks Mr. Saddam's grip on power would be pried lonse by American bombs and missiles few days, a number of knowledgeable

winner from such a conflict. In a country that itself has attacked Iraq, and in which there is near unanimity in the view that President

tion of anonymity.

"If you look back at Arab history, most of the military defeats suffered by Arabs were turned into political victories," he said, adding that the fact Mr. Saddam "withstood the 1991 attack and could still swim in the waters of the Enphrates proves that he withstood the any hacking from any other source that was his victory. And the fact that his jittery public. people are suffering doesn't mean a thing to him. His survival, together with an Arab political coalitioo against the United States, might not bode well for the stability of the Middle East.'

Shlomo Gazit, a retired general who ooce ran military intelligence, said he doubted U.S. intelligence on Iraq's weapons-making facilities was wholly reliable and up-to-date nr that air attacks would eliminate Mr. Saddam's arsenal and capacity to make new armaments. He said attacking Iraq to punish Mr. Saddam might be worth it, but only if Washingtoo has the stomach for a sustained, devastating - and televised -

"I'm very donbtful about your ability to do it," Mr. Gazit said. "It requires a decision that I'm doubtful Washington will take: Are you really prepared to inflict casualties on humao beings to try tn destroy several divisions of the Re-publican Guard — and this can be done

- hy American air power? My assumption is that the answer is no. Public opinion will not allow you, and the political system will not allow you.'

He added: "The No. 1 question is, Will the U.S. come out of this confrontation as the winning side or the losing side? If it is the losing side it will be very bad for the peace process and very had for the role the U.S. plays as an honest broker and mediator in the peace process. If it wins, tablishments, the conviction that Mr. theo it can really enhance the peace pro-Saddam should be punished harshly for cess. But '91 is not '98, and overall conditions and considerations and circurnstances are so different that you can't

in any way rely on" winning.
What is striking is that Israelis who argue for an American attack, and that seems to be the majority view, do so only in negative terms.

Certainly, even the most devastating air raids might accomplish little, they alone. And in interviews over the last say, and could even make matters worse in the region. But to back off and do Israelis, including gung-ho sopporters of tough American actioo, acknowledged that it is far from guaranteed that Wasbington would emerge perceived as the process and granting carte blanche to Israel's enemies in the region. That, they

say, would be bad for Israel. 'Frankly, if you don't get to Saddam and bold his throat and troops into Bagbdad in 1991, the sur-prise is not that there is substantial sup-weapons of mass destructioo "are very port for fresh American raids. It is the slim," said an Israeli who declined to be extent to which Israelis express doubt ideotified. But if the Americans "back that they would do any good and fear that off and decide not to act, the feeling in they could make matters worse in the the Arab world is going to be that 'what Middle East.

"Bombing chuld be counterproductive," said a high-ranking Israeli govture. The Americans are weak. They ernmeot strategist, speaking on condimight be a superpower, but they are

In Israel, the focus in the media and public debate has been oo whether a U.S. attack on Iraq would prompt Mr. Saddam to launch retaliatory strikes against Israel, as he did with the Scud missiles in 1991. Although Israeli officials regard the probability of such an attack as expower of the only superpower without tremely low, they have found themselves discussing it endlessly to soothe a

That spotlight on the immediate se-



Defense Minister Sheikh Ali as Sabah as Salim as Sabah of Kuwait among Kuwaiti soldiers during a visit Wednesday to the border with Iraq. judgment."

Already the crisis has contributed to the stalemate in the peace process by distracting official Washington's attention. It also has sparked pro-Iraqi demonstrations among Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which in turn have antagonized Jews.

There is speculation that a oew concrack down oo Palestinians' freedom of movement in the occupied territories and perhaps to impose a curfew. That, in with the frozen peace process to the breaking point.
Oo the other hand, some Israeli

coocessions for Middle East peace. But several high-ranking former military officials said they are worried that Israel's eagerness to see punishment new Gulf War.

Retired General Ephraim Soeh, a flict with Iraq could prompt Israel to Labor Party legislator, said any attack oo Iraq that leaves Mr. Saddam in power is a waste of time and could uoderline fading American influence in the Middle turn, could push Palestinian frustrations East. Already, he said, Washington's attempts to revive the stalled peace process have come to naught.

"If he stays in power, we must prestrategists say a powerful U.S. attack pare for the next surprise — a year from curity risk to Israel has obscured the could help the cause of peace in the oow, five years from oow, 10 years from

broader implications of a U.S. attack oo Middle East by leaving Iraq weakened, now," Mr. Sneh said. with a workable alternative. White House Says Iraq Still Has a Force of Scud-Type Missiles

the capability to make more quickly, the White House said in a document based on U.S. intelligence data.

The 17-page document, which had oo markings to show who prepared it, was released Tuesday, shortly after President Bill Clinton warned Iraq to permit inspections of suspected sites of weapons of mass destruction or face a military A U.S. official declined to say who "Enough production components and

struction, the document said, citing the views of unidentified world "experts."

"They believe Iraq maintains a small force of Scud-type missiles, a small wrote the report, but said it was based on U.S. intelligence data.

WASHINGTON — Iraq has Scudise has been retained or developed to type missiles and a small stockpile of charical and historical meanons with production" of weapons of mass de
data remain hidden and enough experting in saud may mad within included making 122,457 gallons or oduction of weapons of mass de
(85,337 liters) of anthrax, 100,396 gal-It said Iraq had withheld information when Iraq is alleged to have used chemlons of botulinum toxin and 591 gallons

The document said that the hiological weapons came to light after the 1995 missiles from Russia and its efforts to weapons came to light after the 1995 missiles from Russia and its efforts to defection of Hussein Kamel, President modify the missile's warhead and ex-Saddam Hussein's son-in-law and al- tend its range. legedly a key player in Iraq's weapons "Discrepancies in Iraqi accounting programs. He was put to death on his suggest that Baghdad could still have a

ical weapons - including mustard gas and nerve agents -during its war against Iran or on its own Kurdish minority.

The report said Iraq had an active missile program before the 1991 Gulf War, including its purchase of 819 Scud

return to Iraq. small force of Scud-type missiles and an The document lists 10 occasions between August 1983 and March 1988 launchers," it added.

Blair Gets Support for Policy on Iraq as Parliament Backs Strikes

By John Burgess

LONDON - Ten Anglican bishops have warned of civilian deaths if bombs fall on Iraq, and about 100 demonstrators have staged a sit-down protest on a London street in condemn the use of military force. British newspapers have published questioning editorials, while pacifist politicians have made

critical comments. But aside from these scattered expressions of opposition, Prime Minister Tony Blair has met little resistance as he has put Britain squarely on course for an attack on Iraq if its leader, Saddam Hussein, does oot back down and grant United Nations inspectors access to suspected weapons production sites. In cooperation with the United States, Britain has

moved warplanes and an aircraft carrier to the Gulf region m be ready to strike if the order comes.

On Tuesday night, Mr. Blair got an official mandate to proceed. By a vote of 493 to 25, the papers have sounded a jingoistic chord — "Take Hnuse of Commons approved a resolution authorizing the government to "use all necessary means"

nff, settling for some convenient fudge in the face nf Saddam's defiance — these are options too

dangerous to contemplate," Defense Secretary
George Robertson told the Hnuse during a sevenhour debate on Iraqi policy that preceded the vote.
In times like this, British gut reaction is to
support the government, said Robert Worcester,
chairman of Market and Opinion Research International, a polling nrganization. He called this tendency 'a holdover from the 19th-century im-

perial destiny," when Britain put troops into count-less conflicts small and large.

In recent times, British armed forces have reinforced this backing by besting the enemy in their foreign missions, said Timothy Garden, a retired Royal Air Force marshal who now heads the Royal Institute of International Affairs, a research ceoter in London. "We don't have a Vietnam," he said.

papers have sounded a jingoistic chord — "Take Out Saddam" read a froot-page headline in the Sun, reporting a Gulf War veteran's call to assassinate the Iraqi president — the public seems briefings to ontline the size of Iraq's illegal arsenal. On Tuesday, the Defense Ministry released diagrams of the "presidential sites" that Iraq has declared offto resolve the crisis over Iraq's weapons program. sassinate the Iraqi preside "Letting Saddam off, doing oothing, hacking more resigned than eager.

According to a survey published last week by the Guardian newspaper and the polling organization ICM, 56 percent of the British public would support in the Gulf region to build its case with the public. military action against Iraq, while 32 percent would

oppose it. The rest were undecided. In contrast, the Gulf War and the 1982 Falklands War won approval by up to 80 percent of the public. Tn many analysts, the reason is that the goals were clearer and more popular. The Gulf War was launched to liberate Kuwait, the Falklands conflict to take back British islands seized by Argentina.

But since the start of the crisis over Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs, Britain has joined the United States wholeheartedly. Mr. Blair dispatched to the Gulf the Invincible, an aircraft carrier with 13 Sea Harrier jump-jets aboard. Eight Tornadn fighter-bombers have flowe to a base in Kuwait. In addition, Britain has two squadrons of Tornadoes in Saudi Arahia.

Two weeks ago, British officials called press

of House of Commons speeches and of British forces in the Gulf region to build its case with the public. The Times of London contended Tuesday that the public oeeds clear talk on potential dangers.

"Outside Israel, public opinion has not been read-ted for the risk, however small, of Iraqi retaliation with toxins or nerve gas so potent that tiny quantities could kill thousands," it said. Religious leaders have voiced some of the most pointed opposition. Ten bishops of the Church of England, writing to the Independent newspaper last week, expressed fear of "large-scale civilian cas-

ualties" and new distrust of the West in the Muslim world if airstrikes were launched against Iraq. what it and the political opposition there is comes mainly from "old Labor" members of Parliament who stand by pacifist principles that the "New Labor" party of Mr. Blair has largely set aside. Some of them had their say in the House of Commons debate Tuesday. "Every member of Parliament to debate Tuesday. Every member of Parliament to-night whn votes for the government motion will be consciously and deliberately accepting responsibility



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0H10: Officials Heckler Continued from Page

ASIA/PACIFIC

A Step Behind Suharto, Is He Devil or Angel?

Whichever, Habibie Arouses Intense Feelings

By Keith Richhurg Washington Post Service

JAKARTA - B. J. Habibie is a visionary, an ardent economic nationalist and Moslim intellectual, inspiring millions with his grand plan to transform Indonesia into a leader of industry and high technology for the next century.

B. J. Habibie is a dangerous eccentric who uses his proximity to an aging president to push his bizarre economic theories and a raft of grandiose but illconceived plans that are a drain on the national treasury.
Those two opposing views may both

sound extreme, but they nearly summarize the intense reaction that Mr. Habibie's name elicits from his many supporters in Indonesia and from his equally sizable number of detractors.

"Habibie is a very divisive presence, not only in society, but also within the military," said an Asian diplomat with long experience here. For years, the critics have been able to dismiss Mr. Habibie, Indonesia's research and technology minister, as a bit of an oddball and a maverick, although an influential one with the ear of President Suharto.

But now Mr. Habibic, 61, stands on the verge of becoming Indonesia's next vice president and the country's next

JAKARTA — Embassies in Jakarta warned their nacionals Wednesday to be

on guard against unrest in Indonesia.
The U.S. Embassy offered the

tioning them against intercity travel by road and urging them to register with consular offices.

"In light of an increasing pattern of security threats and disturbances affecting intercity road travel in West Java, which could spread to other areas of the

country, American citizens may wish to

exercise caucon and seek advice before

undertaking intercity road travel in In-

"In addition, continuing riots and looting in some parts of the country

prompt the reminder that due to the

possibility of increased tension and

criminal acovity arising from economic

uncertainty in Indonesia, American cit-

izens should exercise prudence and

donesia," an embassy statement said.

president if Mr. Suharto, at 76, is unable to complete his next five-year term.

On Wednesday, Mr. Habibie moved a step closer to the vice presidential post that eluded him in 1993. Indonesia's powerful armed forces officially threw their support behind Mr. Habibie for vice president when the outgoing com-mander. General Feisal Tanjung, praised him as "the best figure to accompany Suharto in carrying out the duties of the nation and the state for the next five years."

The armed forces' support was considered crucial, because they enjoy a constitutionally enshrined role in polities and are considered the country's most cohesive national instinution and the final arbiter of power. Mr. Habibie, despite his many qualifications in academics, private business and various government posts, has never worn a uniform — leaving a large question mark over his level of support in the ranks.

A Western diplomat here said the main unspoken rule in Indonesia was that anyone in a top leadership position, meaning president or vice president. had to meet three criteria: be Muslim, from the military and from Java, the most populous of the islands in the Indonesian archipelago. Mr. Habibie, be noted, fulfills two out of three.

Embassies in Jakarta Warn Nationals

common sense and avoid demonstra-

More than 25 towns and cities have

tions and other simations that could turn

been rocked by rioting over soaring

prices and sbortages of basic goods in

the last two weeks, with the ethnic

Chinese minority bearing the brunt of

Vehicles on highways have also re-

portedly been attacked and at least five

persons have been killed, all shot and killed by security forces. Much of the

violence has been concentrated in East

Java Province, which surrounds Jakarta.

countrymen in Indonesia to be on guard.

Australia's ambassador to Indonesia.

John McCarthy, warned Australians to

take care, particularly traveling outside Jakarta and the Embassy official said Bri-

tons were urged to register their pres-

ence in Indonesia and to seek advice

Australian officials warned their

the mob rage.



B.J. Habibie, left, with President Suharto of Indonesia.

General Feisal, in endorsing Mr. Habibie, said his lack of a military background was not a factor.
"I think Minister Habibie is a shoo-in

now," said Eugene Galbraith, head of research in Hong Kong for ABN AMRO Asia Ltd., who spent 16 years living in Indonesia and is considered an expert on the country. "It's a terrible decision. He's kind of a proven spendthrift. He's someone who doesn't have very good political instincts in terms of forging coalitions and building a con-

Other disagree. "I think he's been

before traveling.

The French Embassy said that because of "developments," particularly in Java, Sulawesi, Lombok, Flores and

Sumatra islands, it urged French na-

tionals to be cautious when traveling in

sued by several other European em-

bassies. Singaporeans have been told to

avoid certain areas. The Singaporeans, along with ethnic Chinese from other

states and ethnic groups who could ap-

pear Chinese, such as Koreans, bave

expressed concern they could be mis-

taken by mobs for local Chinese.
On Tuesday, China said it was "very

concerned" for the safety of its citizens,

including Hong Kong residents, in the

have reviewed evacuation procedures,

although diplomats are reluctant to dis-

Most embassies are understood to

Similar warnings were believed is-

the provinces.

growing violence.

cuss the subject openly.

given an unfair reading," said Dewi Fortuna Anwar, a political scientist with Indonesia's Institute of Social Sciences and an admined Habibie fan. "I think a lot of the younger generation will sup-port him because of his vision. He does have the vision, and I think he does excite a lot of people in that way."

Speaking of Mr. Habibie's grand plans for an Indonesian aircraft and shipbuilding industry, Miss Anwar said. 'I'm Indonesian and I don't want people to say, 'Oh, you export cheap textiles and shoes,' You can have a vision.

One of Mr. Habibie's more controversial moves was to use his influence with Mr. Suharto to force the military to purchase some components from the "strategic industries" that Mr. Habibie controls. That perceived interference in the armed forces' procurement process was believed to have earned him the permanent antagonism of key generals.

In addition, in 1990 Mr. Suharto placed him at the head of a new grouping called the Indonesian Association of Muslim Intellectuals. The group has given the minister a broad political base of support for his often-unconventenial economic theories.

There's an ideological element to it," said an Asian diplomat, explaining the core of Mr. Habibie's support and the unlikely and sometimes disparate coalition of Islamicists and urban in-

tellectuals who back him. He said that many indigenous Indonesians believe in special government breaks for their businesses, to counter the perceived special privileges enjoyed by the country's ethnic Chinese minority, who control 70 percent of private wealth here. "They want to put the Chinese in their place," the diplomat said.

In 2 Petitions, Dissidents Ask **More Liberties** From Beijing

Compiled by Our Statt From Despatcher

BELJING -- Chinese dissidents have pecitioned the national legislature to institute democratic reforms, investigate the 1989 crackdown on protests and allow independent trade unions, human rights groups said Wednesday.

Seven dissidents in the eastern

province of Zhejiang sent a letter to the National People's Congress on Tuesday, seeking guarantees for freedoms of speech and assembly, the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

The lener added that Prime Minister Li Peng, who is finishing his second and last term in office, should not be named the congress chairman at the legislature's annual session next month because of his support for the military attack on protesters around Tiananmen

Square in 1989. Mr. Li's "hands were stained with the fresh blood of beroes," said the appeal.
A copy was made public by the information Center, which is based in Hong Kong. The petition also urged that a committee investigate the crackdown,

The seven signers - mostly workers and intellectuals from Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai - have served prison sentences for their involvement in the protest nine years ago and other dis-

sident acrivities. In another petition, Wang Hongxue. an acovist from Anhui Province, urged legislators to pass laws to protect civil libertics, wipe out corruption and make the government more accountable to the people, said Human Rights in China, an organization in New York.

The 38-year-old hospital worker also sought the right to establish independent trade unions, as stipulated in a United Nations treaty on human rights that China signed last year,

Parliament is scheduled to open its annual session on March 5 and is expected to elect Mr. Li to replace Qiao Shi as head of the lawmaking body.

The petition also urged the authorities to show tolerance by allowing exiled dissidents to return home, lifting a ban on new political parties and newspapers and guaranteeing freedom of speech and press freedom.

The authorities have forced a grow-

ing number of dissidents into exile since last year in the hope that the activists would fade away. (AP, Reuters)

BRIEFLY

Ranariddh Plans Return to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH --- Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the deposed first prime minister, will return to Cambodia next month to help his political party prepare for elections, the prince's personal representative said Wednesday.

Prince Ranariddh, who is now in exile, has been prevented from returning to Cambodia for a variety of reasons, including a wish to pursue diplomatic channels outside the country, said Lu Laysreng, the prince's aide.

Hun Sen deposed Prince Ranariddh as his co-prime minister following two days of fierce fighting in early July. Mr. Hun Sen voiced support Tuesday for a Japanese initiative that has received wide international backing to allow for Prince Ranariddh's return.

The plan calls for Prince Ranariddh to cut all ties with the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement; immediate implementation of a ceasefire between battling forces in northwestern Cambodia; a pardon if the prince is convicted of the charges against him, and a guarantee for his safe return to participate in the elections.

Manila Defections

MANILA - At least eight congressmen and two governors have defected from the governing party as it faces a national election campaign, but its presidential candidate said Wednesday that new recruits would make up for the losses.

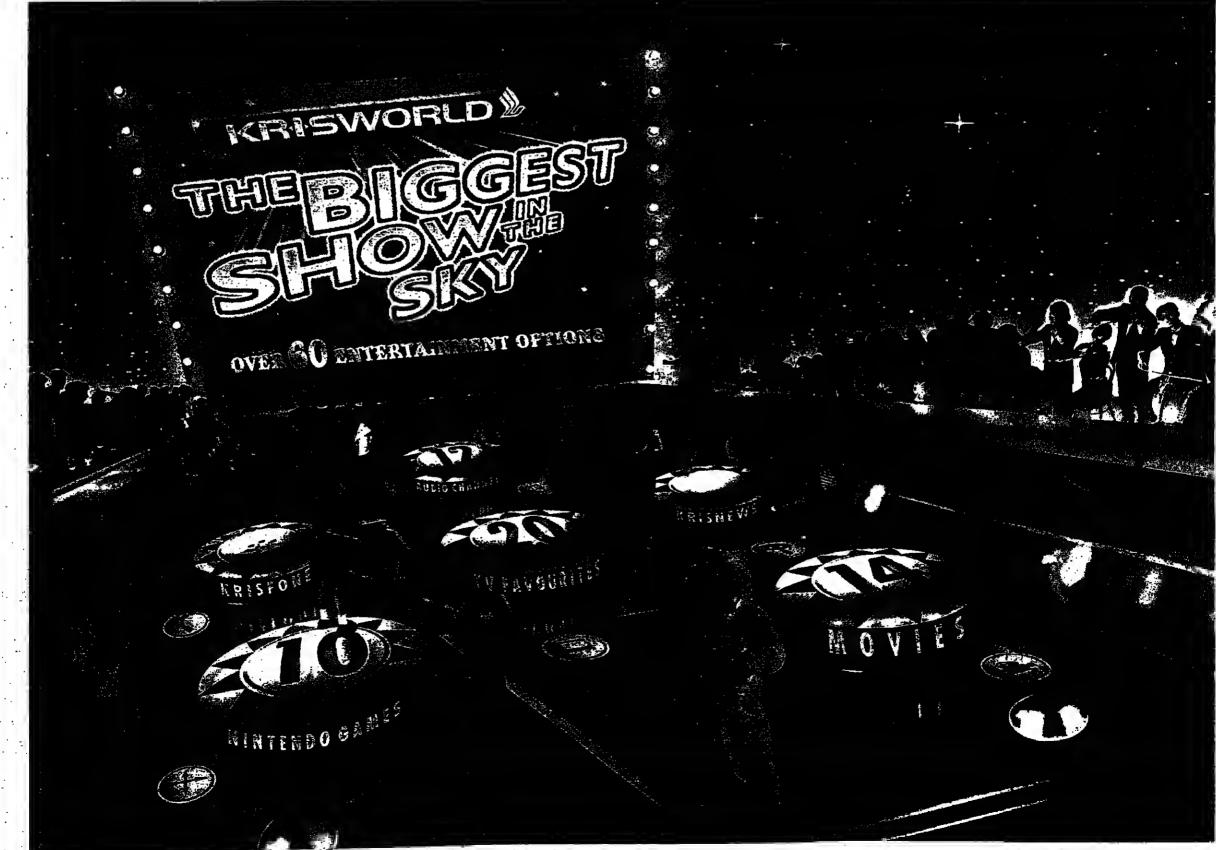
But some analysts expect further defections from the Lakas-NUCD party because its presidential candidate, the House speaker Jose de Venecia, trails the opposition candidate. Joseph Estrada, in popularity polls.

India State Re-Votes

GUWAHATI, India - India's northeastern state of Assam, hit by separatist violence in national elecoons this week, began repeat polling in parts of the province on

Wednesday.

Election officials said the voting in nine polling stadons spread across three parliamentary constituencies began smoothly. (Reuters)



A great way to fly system to provide both audio and video on demand. Enjoy the biggest show in the sky, only on Singapore Airlines SINGAPORE AIRLINES system to provide both audio and video on demand. Enjoy the biggest show in the sky, only on Singapore Airlines SINGAPORE AIRLINES

KrisWorld* is now playing in every seat in every class on Singapore Airlines. We invite you to sit back and choose from over 60



Continued from Page 1

Ms. Lewis's attorney, Billy Martin, said that she remained under askew. snbpoena. He did not say when she would again appear. ''She's not do-

ing well," he said. Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Clinton have been close since they worked together in the 1960s for Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. It is Mr. Lindsey to whom Mr. Clinton has turned in times of difficulty, whether dealing with the Whitewater real-estate affair or the harassment charges hy Mrs. Jnnes.

Mr. Lindsey is never far from Mr. Clinton, in Washington or on the road. But as a fierce and determined loyalist of the president's, he is cer-tain to make a highly reluctant wit-

Mr. Starr subpoenaed Mr. Lindsey because of conversations he had last year with Linda Tripp, the woman who taped more than 20 hours of conversation with Ms. Lewinsky in which the younger woman reportedly hragged to her friend of an 18-month affair with Mr. Clinton.

Ms. Tripp, who had been an ex-House volunteer, Kathleen Willey. plausible that she herself smeared

Ms. Tripp allegedly saw Mrs. Wil- her lipstick, untucked her blouse, ley leave the Oval Office with her makeup smeared and her blouse

Mrs. Willey has now been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury investigating the Clinton-Lewinsky matter, The Washington Post reported Wednesday. She had said in a deposition in the Jones suit that Mr. Clinton made an unwelcome pass at her on Nnv. 29, 1993, when she went to his office to seek a fulltime job. Conflicting accounts have emerged of the alleged incident. In a related development, a friend

of Mrs. Willey's, Julie Hiatt Steele of Richmond, Virginia, has told Mr. Clinton's attorneys that Mrs. Willey urged her to lie to a reporter. A lawyer for Ms. Steele said that Mrs. Willey wanted her friend to say that Mrs. Willey had mentioned the alleged incident with Mr. Clinton shortly after it occurred, instead of later.

Prosecutors also want to ask Mr. Lindsey about a three-page memn of "talking points" that Ms. Lewinsky gave to Ms. Tripp on Jan. 14, apparently to prepare her for a de-position in the Jones case by coachecutive assistant tn Mr. Lindsey for a short time, reportedly wanted his advice after reporters asked her about an episode involving a White House volunteer First lear Willey.

Mr. Lindsey has denied any involvement in the talking-point memo, and its source remains unclear. But the memo, by urging Ms. Tripp to change her testimony, could provide evidence of an attempt to suborn perjury, one of the allegations the grand jury is inves-

Some legal experts say the memo's language, some of it colloquial or imprecise, makes it doubtful that it was prepared by someone with legal training, such as Mr. Lindsey or Mr. Clinton's close friend Vernon Jordan.

Ms. Lewinsky has been in hiding in Washington since she returned here from California late last week. The timing of her eventual appearance before the grand jury re-

mained unclear Wednesday. No progress was reported on arranging grant of immunity in exchange for her full testimony. There was new information,

meanwhile, on why Ms. Tripp ap-parently decided to turn the tapes of Ms. Lewinsky over to Mr. Starr's office in mid-January. Lucianne Goldberg, a New York

book agent, told an interviewer Tuesday that Ms. Tripp became concerned in December that the tapes



Bruce Lindsey, left, and his attorney arriving Wednesday at the courthouse in Washington for the grand jury hearing.

she had secretly made of her phone to play down comments he made in conversations with Ms. Lewinsky might be illegal and began looking for a new lawyer who could arrange immunity from prosecution.

Ms. Goldberg said that Ms. Tripp's concern about the law led her to a new lawyer, and eventually to Mr. Starr. Because of her cooperation, pros-

any prosecution at the federal

Meanwhile, Mr. McCurry, the White House spokesman, has tried hypothetical questions.

an interview with the Chicago Tribune, including the suggestion that there might not be a "simple. innocent explanation" of Mr. Clinton's relationship with Ms. Lew-

While not retracting his statements, Mr. McCury made it clear. in good-humored comments, that he ecutors offered her immunity from did not know all the facts of the

A "lapse in my sanity," he said, had led him to answer the Tribune's

JAPAN: Chorus of Complaints

Continued from Page 1

seems reluctant to backtrack on his pledge last year to reduce the budget deficit, and so far he has resisted calls for massive tax cuts or big pub-

lic-works spending.

Although he did push for a major deregulation of the fi-nancial sector, Mr. Hashimo- were to happen, then fiscal reto has moved timidly in other straint would be shelved." areas. Given his plummeting popularity and weak position among the Liberal Demo-crats, he appears inwilling to force a showdown over deregulation efforts that would bring him into open conflict point, Minoru Morina auz with politicians close to those political analyst, said in protected industries. For now, Mr. Hashimoto

did not expect Mr. Hashimoto to dramatically change his policy unless there was a crisis such as a substantial

the Liberal Democratic Party's policy-research council, promised the party would do its best to lift the Nikkei stock index above 18,000 points by the end of March.

economists say. But because analysts say.
of corruption and bid-rigging On Wednesday, prosecu-r

in rural Japan. "What you don't want is a repeat of 1996," said Jeffrey Young, an economist with Salomon Smith Barney. "In late 1995, Japan passed a huge stimulus budget. In 1996, it had the highest GDP growth of the G-7 nations, and then in 1997, when the fiscal measure ran out, you had the lowest growth, because you still had an economy with structural problems that was very vul-nerable to shocks."

There is growing disagreement among lawmakers about next year's budget, and legislative action has fallen behind schedule. Mr. Miyagawa said that more and more, the talk in political circles here was that Mr. Hashiototo might resign to get the budget passed if it were to

"What I'm saving is that there are great uncertainties surrounding the cament pol-itics," Mr. Wiyagiwa said. "If you ask me the chances, I-would say it \$50-56. But now people mention resignation. It to has been privately, discussed to before, but this week, it was h

were to happen, then fiscal re-Other political analysis ni said Mr. Hashimoto's resignation

nation appeared unlikely.... "There's no agreemental within the LDP on who would in succeed Hashimoto at this !..

Takayoshi Miyagawa a says that two measures already no well-known politician, said he approved, a bank stabilization n package and a consumer-tax;)
cut, will give a lift to the econ-

Meanwhile, concerns areas growing that an expanding of "Rather than admit his series of bribery investigations engulfing the government has left a power vacuum, further crippling decision making. Japan's political system has historically resulted in weak prime ministers and strong bureaucrats. It preventations are leaders from the composition of the c taking aggressive actions to return Japan, to economic health after the country's economic "bubble" burst seven years ago. But the powerful Finance

Ministry was able to pull The quickest way to jump-strings to prevent economic start Japan's economy is crises from veering too far out? probably an expensive pub- of control. A series of recent lic-works program, Western scandals is changing that,

in public-works projects, that tors asked the courts to issue i spending is often inefficient an arrest warrant for Shokei and produces only a short- Arai, a Liberal Democratic.: term blip, as well as an over- lawmaker. Mr. Arai, a former supply of bridges and tunnels Finance Ministry bureaucrat." and now a member of Par-77 liament, is accused of receiv-_, ing illegal payments from " Nikko Securities Co. Because Parliament is in session, prosecutors must obtain legislative permission to arrest Mr. 5 Arai. The Arai scandal comes '7 on the heels of bribery scan-dals involving the Finance.

Ministry, Japan Highway.

Public Corp. and several prominent Japanese banks. - 3

The result has been a reduction in the Finance Ministry's influence, said Naoki-Tanaka, an influential polit-r! ical analyst. In a speech this id week, Mr. Tanaka said it was not clear who or what would replace the Finance Ministry of as a power center for eco-u nomic policy.

Special correspondent!

Akiko Kashiwagi contributed

BRIEFLY

Kaunda Is Notified of Charge

LUSAKA, Zamhia - The government on Wednesday formally notified former President Kenneth Kaunda in court of the treason-related charge he has faced since his

arrest in connection with an alleged coup plot.

Mr. Kaunda, 73, who was detained on Christmas Eve and subsequently moved from jail to house arrest, was charged with knowing that some members of the armed forces were planning a coup in October and failing to report this to the authorities.

Earlier, the state prosecutor, John Katongo, told the magistrates court that he wanted the charge fully explained to Mr. Kaunda. He is alleged to have committed "misprision of treason," Misprision means the knowledge of a planned crime and the failure to disclose it.

23 Massacred in Algerian Town

ALGIERS - New killings in western Algeria claimed 23 lives on Wednesday, the Algerian security forces announced in a statement. Nn details were provided.

The statement said the victims were killed at Sidi Djilali in the Tlemcen region near the border with Morocco, about 540 kilometers (340 miles) west of Algiers. No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, but such incidents are usually hlamed on the Armed Islamic Group, which is seeking to overthrow the military-backed

2 Provinces Oppose Quebec Bid

OTTAWA - The Saskatchewan and Yukon provincial governments have added their voices to those arguing before the Supreme Court that Quebec has no right to secode from Canada.

"The unilateral secession of any province would fracture the very foundations of Canada." Graeme Mitchell, a lawyer for the Saskatchewan government, told the nine justices Tuesday on the second day of hearings to determine the legal status of a secession attempt.

The historic case was initiated by the federal government, which says it would be willing to consider independence for Quebec, but only after a fair, clear-cut vnte and after negotiatinns involving all of Canada.

Saskatchewan and Yukon agreed with the provinces of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, which presented

Mexican Centrist Party Created

their arguments to the court Monday.

MEXICO CITY - A farmer top official of Mexico's ruling party has created a centrist party, hoping to join apposition forces on the left and right to win the presidential race in 2000.

Manuel Camacho Solis, a former mayor of Mexico City, nn Tuesday unveiled the Party of the Democratic nter to several thousand cheering supporters in a Mexico City office tower.

Mr. Camacho called for a united front among the country's often fractious opposition as the only way to topple the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party,

"The day has arrived to prepare for a historic change."
Mr. Camacho said. "If we do not, we risk a new tragic period of decay of our government."

(Reuters)

-ON TOP OF THE WORLD"

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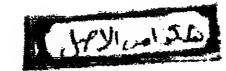
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Chorus of Complaint The Page 1 The Act of the Complaint of the Complaint

ing at a rusted hunk of fron that had been shown the middle to reveal its silver-colored core down the mattern of its internal structure. down the middle to reveal its suver-color than the structure.

Structure would be slighted and the pattern of its internal structure.

It was an antique rivet, made of Scor along with 3 million others.

There's an antique river, made or scottish from and pounded, along with 3 million other rivers, and appeared unlike Belfast's Harland & Wolff shipyard in 1910.

As Mr. Foecke studied the patterns of slag

There's no speak Belfast's Harland & Wolff snippard in 1210.

As Mr. Foecke studied the patterns of slag streaking through the metal, he saw that near one where the rivet bead was gone, the streaks streaking through the metal, he saw that near one end, where the rivet bead was gone, the streaks changed direction sharply — a sure sign of structural weakness. "Wow," he murmured to

Mr. Foecke's discovery in September, in his tiny laboratory at the federal government's National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, substantially bolstered a chilling new theory about the great ship a chilling new theory about the great ship a demise; that the vessel, the technical wonder of its day, may bave had a fatal weakness in its lowly rivets.

300,000-ton iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland the night of April 14, 1912, the impact did not slice a 300-foot gash in its side but, rather, popped the rivets, "unzipping" seams in the hull plates in six places. The total area open to the sea, experts now believe, may have been nu higger than a closet door.

It is the latest concept to emerge as scientists conduct a kind of cuntinuing mechanical autopsy of the Titanic, in the wake of its discovery in 1985 in 12,000 feet (3,650 meters) of water by Robert Ballard, an oceanngrapher,

Working with artifacts recovered from the ocean floor, videorape, photographs and special underwater imaging. Mr. Foecke and a host of metallurgists, marine architects and other experts have been seeking to piece together the exact details of the catastrophe.

A student of history, as well as metallurgy, Mr. Foecke has become fascinated with the mystery

unknown. "I'm not married to any particular theory," he said, adding that he has examined

only a few of the 3 million hull rivets. As for the ultimate cause of the sinking, George Tulloch, president of RMS Titanic Inc., the company that owns salvage rights to the ship, cautioned: "I'm not sure it's fair to take the iceberg off the block as the guilty party - or the people that hit it."

When it was completed April 2, 1912, the RMS (Royal Mail Steamship) Titanic was the largest moving object made by man. It was the size of an 11-story building, with a 101-ton rudder, and would carry 2,200 people — 1,500 of them doomed — on its maiden voyage nine days later.

Although it was considered a model of safety. after a struck the iceberg, it filled rapidly with 34,000 ions of water and sank in less than three hours, coming to rest in three large pieces about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) beneath the surface.

Initial scrutiny turned up what appeared to be a weakness in the hull plates. Some of the inchthick steel plates seemed to have properties that made them relatively brinle in cold water. Subsequent analysis, though, suggested that 2,000 steel plates used in the hull varied in quality.

During an expedition to the wreck in the summer of 1996, Paul Matthias, head of Polaris Imaging Inc., used a special low-frequency sonar to scan the part of the hull — now buried in 60 icet of bonom mud - damaged by the iceberg.

Contrary to long-held suspicions about a giant gash, Mr. Manhias found a series of six lateral openings in the starboard side that seemed to have been made by the Titanic bouncing off the iceberg as it scraped past.

"The position of these openings roughly cor-responds to hull-plate boundaries," Mr. Matthias said, throwing suspicion on the rivets. The experts studying the ship were intrigued.

be maintained,

region has been substantially reduced,

Still, both U.S. and Italian defense of-

ficials insist that training missions must

lower than 1,000 feet, flying at half that

level was a military aviation art form

widely practiced by pilots in planes like

the EA-6B Prowler to avoid detection

hy enemy radar. Prowlers and other

radar-jamming planes frequently fly ahead of a raid to clear the way for

bombing missions. At such low levels,

high speeds are actually safer because

they improve maneuverability.
What is unclear is whether the Prowl-

er should have been in the valley in the

first place. The Pentagon insists that the

Prowler was on the authorized flight

path. But Italian officials say the valley

was a deviation from the planned route

and was unnecessary on a day wben

postcard-perfect weather made the au-

near the ski lift las' August because the

number of training runs had climbed to

900 a week in an area about the size of

New Hampshire with a population level twice as dense. Since then, flights

through the valley have been cut to 500

The Italians banned low-level flights

thorized route easily passable.

Before the order to fly at altitudes no

very well, and that's the rivets."

The duty fell to Mr. Foecke, an expert in fracture mechanics, who had been given several vets for analysis a few months before.

Mr. Foecke said he sliced one of the hull rivets with a diamond-tipped saw, took it to his lah and placed it under a special microscope called an optical metallograph. The metallograph enabled Mr. Foecke to study the pattern of slag streaks running the length of the rivet and to measure the

Wrought iron must have some slag -- about 2 percent - to give it strength, he said. "Otherwise, it would be taffy." But too much makes it weak. The Titanic rivet, he found, had a dangerously high slag content of about 9 percent.

In addition, the streaks of slag, which should run lengthwise along the rivet, made a sudden 90-degree turn at one end, another serious flaw weakening the metal.

cripping the government of the power that cripping the power that Takes Case Before Court Ear the powerful la

Massiry was able as Dublin Judge Hears Plea Against Expulsion Threat a dela la changne.

Compiled by Our Stuff From Disjuteirs

DUBLIN — Shall be publican Army's political wing, turned publican Army's Political wing defense DUBLIN - Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, to a Dublin judge Wednesday in defense warrant in F of its endangered right to stay in North-Literal Dez em Ireland's peace talks.

em retand s peace tains.

The British and Irish governments, which co-sponsor the talks, say Sinn which co-sponsor the talks, say Sinn Fein should be expelled temporarily be-15 Accused on cause of their shared view that the IRA Securities Cake fast last week.

The governments had intended to exin the party Monday, the first of three days of negotiations scheduled to take place in Dublin Castle.

But Sinn Fein won several adjournments from the chairman of the talks, in the former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, and has employed some of the Irish Republic's top lawyers to try lo hlock the governments on another front.
Sinn Fein's legal team argued in the

Irish High Court that Britain's Northern because secretary, Marjorie Mowlam, had denied the party its constitutional rights.

Ms. Mowlam accepted the assessruled province that the IRA was involved in two killings there last week. Under rules for the talks, that would be enough for Sinn Fein to be expelled. Sinn Fein's lawyer, John McMenam-

in, stressed that Sinn Fein was participating "in a spirit of good faith" in the talks, which bring together the British and Irish governments and an array of Roman Catholic and Protestant parties from Northern Ireland. They are trying to reach a political

agreement to end three decades of violence, which has killed more than oience, which

The IRA declared a cease-fire last July, winning a seat at the peace talks for Sinn Fein, which shares the gunmen's goal of Irish unity.

High Court Judge Frederick Management and the peace talks for Sinn Fein, which shares the gunmen's goal of Irish unity.

goal of Irish unity.

High Court Judge Frederick Morris

adjourned the hearing until Thursday.

Mr. Mitchell, his two deputies Sian Fein's complaint. The deputies are reared General John de Chastelain of Canada and former Prime Minister Harri Holkeri of Finland.

Judge Morris said he could not consider any injunction without giving the opportunity of defending themselves."

Notably, Sinn Fein's appeal did not reidentify the Irish government as a defendant, even though it would have to back Sinn Fein's expulsion as well and back Sinn Fein's expulsion as well and has already appointed lawyers to contest

the party's allegations.

Before the adjournment, Mr. McMepetore the adjournment, Mr. McMe-proamin had argued that his Sinn Fein rections had "not at any time demon-istrahly dishonored the principle. mocracy and nonviolence that Mr. Mitchell requires of the talks' partic-

Among the grounds for Sinn Fein's legal action, be said, was the lack of any real opportunity to cross-examinating Northern Ireland's police commander, Ronnie Flanagan, "as to how the formed his opinioo" that the IPA

mander, Ronnie Flanagan, "as to how the formed his opinioo" that the IRA drug dealer and a Protestant The Sinn Fein chairman, Mitchel McLaughlin, who led a delegation into the courtroom, including a founding factor of the courtroom. anghlin, who led a delegation into the courtroom, including a founding father of the modern IRA, Joe Cahill, said the was "extremely pleased." train the property of the modern IRA, Joe Cahill, said the was "extremely pleased" with the udge's initial ruling.

In the Dublin Castle talks themselves.

Also was a serious to the party expelled.

Even if Judge 14.

party expelled.

Even if Judge Morris were to grant a fadorable ruling to Sinn Fein, its shelf life would be short. The Dublin Castle section of falks were ending Wednesslay, and any ruling in a Dublin court ging would have no authority in Northern affand, where the negotiations resume afford the negotiation of the negotiations resume afford the negotiation of the negotiations resume afford the negotiation of the negotiations resume afford the negotiations resume afford the negotiation of the negotiations resume afford the negotiation of the negotiations resume afford the negotiations resume afford the negotiations resume afford the negotiation of the negotiation



HONK AND MOO French larmers protesting Eur policies on Wednesday by using tractors to block steets in Arras, in the north, and by leading a cow and calf through the Halles district in Paris. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

By Richard C. Paddock

Los Angeles Times Service

plan to solve the energy problems of the

future: a fleet of floating nuclear power

stations that could bring electricity to any

From the Arctic to the Indian Ocean,

dozens of atomic energy plants - all

owned by Russia - could be anchored

offsbore, docked in harbors or even

towed upriver to deliver power. In dry

regions, a station could generale enough

energy to operate a companion desal-

ination vessel and produce a steady flow

Mr. Frolov's vision is not science fic-

tion. Construction recently began on the

world's first floating nuclear power sta-

tion, which is planned to serve Russia's

Arctic mining town of Pevek, 1,100 ki-

plants, Russia will get a unique oppor-

tunity to deliver energy to these remote

gineer and head of international cooper-

ation at the Kurchatov Institute in Mos-

cow, the leading nuclear research center

in Russia. "As far as I understand, no one

else in the world is even thinking about

Nearly 12 years after the catastrophic

explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear

plant in Ukraine, post-Soviet Russia has

begun rebuilding its atomic-energy pro-

gram - pushing ahead with a new

generation of power plants and offering

nuclear hargains around the world.

building floating nuclear power plants.

"By building floating nuclear power

said Mr. Frolov, a nuclear en-

lometers (700 miles) west of Alaska.

of fresh water.

part of the world accessible by ship.

MOSCOW - Nikolai Frolov has a

Russia to Build Floating Nuclear Plants

actors in Iran, China and India, Russia

could soon make nuclear energy one of

its biggest exports. At home, Russia has

resumed construction of reactors moth-

balled because of the Chemobyl dis-

aster; as many as three could be com-

clear power in Russia is no looger dan-

gerous. The flaws in the Chemobyl-

style reactor have been corrected, of-

ficials say, and all of the old plants have

been retrofitted to prevent another dis-

aster. The new generation of reactors

has a different design and - whether

the plants are floating or stationary—is
"100 percent safe," they say.
Yet the atomic legacy that Russia in-

herited from the Soviel Uoion suggests

otherwise. The communists' develop-

ment of nuclear power resulted in a string

of nuclear plant accidents dating from a

reactor explosion at Chelyabinsk in the

Radioactive discharges from nuclear

reactors, waste dumps, weapons plants,

research labs and aging nuclear sub-

marines have left Russia with a trail of

contamination from the Norwegian bor-

der to the Far East. In many regions,

Russians have been exposed to high

levels of radiation, and reports of birth

the government should clean up its nu-

clear waste before embarking on a pro-

gram to build new atomic power stations.

The international group Greenpeace contends that some nuclear plants being

Russian environmentalists argue that

defects are common.

1950s to the Chemobyl meltdown.

The government maintains that nu-

pleted next year, officials say.

With a \$7 billion plan 10 build re-

Continued from Page 1 bombing attacks three years ago in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but it is clear that with swooping low over their houses. After a peace accord there, the risks of attacks on U.S. and other military aircraft in the

FLIGHT: U.S. Jet Violated Altitude Rule

the accident, motorists called in to say that they had witnessed the Prowler streaking over automobiles as it crossed

After a Prowler crashed on a training flight in Yuma, Arizona, in 1996, killing its four crew members, the Pentagon ordered that all Prowler flights must fly at least 1,000 feet (305 meters) above the ground. That altitude would have easily cleared the ski lift at Cavalese.

As it was, a lift cable would not be visible until about 650 feet away and if the pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, was flying near the Prowler's top speed of 550 miles an hour, as it seems, the plane would cover that distance in less than a second.

More than halfway through its flight, the Prowler veered left into a series of valleys, abruptly deviating, Italian govemment officials say, from its authorized route.

At 3:10 P.M., 34 minutes into the jet's flight, a bright yellow cable car loaded with skiers began its descent down Mount Cermis. Less than two minutes later, as the car approached the valley floor, Captain Ashhy saw a yellow flasb on the monntainside ahead and to his

It was the cahle car.

The pilot banked sharply left and up to avoid it, but in the instant he had to react, it was too late. The right wing of the Prowler sliced through two cahles, sending a car on the lift plummeting to

the ground, killing all 20 aboard. Less than 14 minutes later the Marine jet, badly damaged and leaking fuel and hydraulic fluid, landed at the NATO air

The Prowler had a major role in the

Jean-Himsoph hater House

built — including the floating station —

are illegal under Russian law because

they have not received the required en-

vironmental review and approval, a claim denied by the government.

estimated to cost \$260 million, will con-

tain two nuclear reactors, storage space

for radioactive waste and living quarters

for a crew of up to 60 operators. It will

bave no engine and will have to be

Its reactors, about the same size as

those in a nuclear submarine, can pro-

duce 60 megawatts of electricity,

enough to sustain a town of about

unplugged from the shore and towed

back to its home port of St. Petershurg

every 12 years for the removal of ra-

dioactive waste, refueling and repairs -

a process that will last more than a year.

pletely independent, autonomous

mode," said Sergei Kazakov, a spokes-

man for the Small Energetics Institute, a

government agency that designed the

station. The first nuclear barge is sched-

uled to begin operating in 2001 after it is

towed thousands of miles from SL

Petersburg through the White Sea Canal

and across the Arctic Ocean to Pevek.

floating nuclear station that the engi-

neers are willing to identify. But because

of the 12-year maintenance cycle, they

say they expect to build at least seven

stations and rotate the ships between

their posts and the refueling center.

For 12 years it operates in a com-

50,000 people, Mr. Frolov said.

towed by another ship.

The floating nuclear power station,

a week and low-altitude flying sharply limited. But Italian prosecutors are investigating whether this order was properly passed to Captain Ashhy and his crew. The commander of the Prowler's squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Muegge, is being investigated for complicity, the prosecutors say, because he failed to inform his crews about the

According to documents filed at the center, the Prowler was authorized to fly from Aviano north to Cortina d'Ampezzo at a cruising altitude of 3,500 feet, continuing to Brunico, where the crew would swing southwest over the Dolomites at a minimum altitude of 500 feet over the terrain to Ponte di Legno. There they would fly south to Casalmaggiore, in the Po Valley.

At that point they would swing north,

following Lake Garda to Riva del Garda at the lake's north end. The last leg of their flight was to follow a line from Riva del Garda at a cruising altitude of 2,000 feet above the ground to the Marmolada, a ridge of craggy, snow-dusted peaks whose highest point reaches almost 11,000 feet above sea level, and from there back to Aviano.

Why part of the flight was allowed to fly as low as 500 feet over the ground is not known. What is known is that there have been violations of altitude rules by Marine Prowler pilots.

After the accident, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Watters was relieved of his command of a Prowler squadron in North Carolina because he had told his squad to destroy any videotapes they had of missions at low altitudes. Home videos are often made during the flights, and one made last year showed the colonel himself flying below the minimum altitude of 1,000 feet off the ground, according to a high-ranking Marine officer at the Pentagon.

At 2:36 P.M., Captain Asbby and his crew took off from Aviano for Cortina. The sky was crystal clear, with little

The Prowler has a single set of flight controls, at the pilot's seat on the front left, but the man in the right front seat, on this flight, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, could serve as a co-pilot, assisting with communications and navigation. Captain Schweitzer has 1,000 nours of experience in Prowlers, more than Captain Asbby, but under Marine rules, the pilot is responsible for the safety of the plane.

Behind Captain Ashby sat the two other crew members, Captain William Designed to last for 40 years, it will be Raney 2d and Captain Chandler Seagraves.

The Prowler does not have a civilianstyle cockpit voice recorder or a flight data recorder, the so-called black boxes. It does carry a mission recorder, which tracks radar activity, altitude above sea level and lantude and longitude.

But the accuracy of the navigational record deteriorates by up to one nautical mile — almost 6,100 feet — for every hour of flight. By the time the Prowler hit the ski lift, the recorded location could have been off by half a mile, which would make a huge difference in calculating its height above uneven ter-

So far, Pevek is the only site for a But for a typical Prowler mission, the best equipment is a pilot's eyes. For that type of mission down that

low, he is visually navigating," a retired flight instructor said. "He should be visually seeing how high be is."

BRIEFLY

2 German Soldiers Accused of Racism

BONN — Two German soldiers on peacekeeping duty in Bosnia hurled neo-Nazi insults at Albanian troops, telling them that "Adolf Hitler would have stuck you in the gas chamber," a television news

program reported Wednesday.
The Defense Ministry said it was investigating the alleged incident last October at a German base at Rajlovac, outside Sarajevo, which Albanian peacekeepers help

It was the latest report about farright extremism in the German military in recent months that has tarnished the army's image.

Italy Alliance Split

ROME - Italy's center-right opposition Freedom Alliance was divided and weakened Wednesday after some members of two smaller parties de led to a new political grouping headed hy former President Francesco Cossiga.

Members of the two small parties — the Christian Democratic Center and the Christian Democratic Union - decided Tuesday to join Mr. Cossiga's formation, known as the Democratic Union for the Repub-

"Cossiga dismantles the Alliance" was the headline in Wednesday's edition of L'Unita, newspaper of the Democratic Party of (Reuters)

3 Ready to Quit Mir

MOSCOW - Two Russian cosmonauts and a French astronaut on the Mir packed up for their trip back to Earth on Thursday, which will mark the 12th anniversary in orbit for the Russian space station.

The two Russians, Anatoli Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, arrived on Mir in August, a time when the troubled space station was plagued by a number of breakdowns, including a reduced power supply.

The two Russians packed up

Wednesday and will leave Mir on Thursday morning along with the French astronaut, Leopold Eyharts, who has been aboard for three weeks conducting scientific experiments, the Interfax press agency

Ferry Inquiry Ends

STOCKHOLM - The investigation into whether criminal charges should be filed in the Esionia ferry disaster is being closed without indictments, the probe's prosecutor said Wednesday. "I'm not saying that nobody did

anything wrong, only that I did not find anyone who was criminally careless," the prosecutor. Tomas Lindstrand, said, according to the Swedish press agency TT.

The Estonia sank on Sept. 28, 1994, killing 852 people.

At precisely 3:12:42 --- noted by a seismographic station on Mount Cermis - Captain Ashby's Prowler sliced into the ski lift cables at about 540 miles an hour, virtually its top speed, according to Italian investigators.

The right wing cut a two-inch thick cable that holds the cable cars up and a three-quarter-inch cahle that tugs them along.

At 3:26 the flight, code-named Easy 01, limped in to the Aviano base, leaking fuel and hydraulic fluid. The crew evacuated the plane so quickly that one crew member twisted an ankle leaping to the tarmac.

Aviation mechanics said the jet was seriously damaged in four places. On the front edge of the right wing, which had evidently sliced through the cahles, were two gasbes several feet apart, each about 6 inches deep. Electrottic equipment under the wing was sheared off. And serious damage was evident on the tail, caused, investigators believe, when the beavier of the two cables snapped across the tail like a whip.

The Marines will not explain why the Italian maps with the ski lift on it were not used. American military flights generally use American maps, mostly because Pentagon officials trust American map-makers more than the agencies that

draw local mans.

Bad Plan for Indonesia

Facing a plummeting economy and angry rioters, President Suharto of Indonesia has turned in desperation to a magical remedy known as a currency board. Snch a board would tie the value of Indonesia's currency, the rupiah, to the value of the U.S. dollar and commit Indonesia to accumulating large dollar reserves with which it could, if needed, buy back all the rupiah its central bank has issued. In theory, a dollar-backed currency board assures foreign investors that their money is safe, leading them to return and thereby stimulating

recovery.

But what sounds appealing, most Western experts warn, could easily backfire in practice. The International Monetary Fund and Clinton administration officials have rejected the adoption of a currency board because they rightly fear that, employed during a currency crisis, it could drive up interest rates, crushing the country's debt-burdened businesses. The high interest rates would be needed to attract tens of hillions of dollars from the rest of the world to create a reserve fund hig enough to reassure foreign investors.

A currency board would also tie the supply of the rupiah in the economy to the flow of dollars from abroad, rather than to policy decisions by the Indooesian central bank. That means the central bank could no longer expand the money supply to fight off a collapse of domestic banks or to extract the economy from depression.

point to its successful application in Hong Kong and Argentina. But Hong Kong is tiny, and cannot run a monetary policy independent of that of its trading partners. Argentina adopted its currency board only after it lost control of its monetary policy and flirted with hyperinflation and the disintegration of its monetary system. In that circumstance the currency board poses scant additional threat. Indonesia fits neither circumstance. For it to relinquish control over its monetary system amounts

to reckless policy disarmament.
Mr. Suharto challenges the West 10 provide a better solution to his eco-comic problems. That solution is agonizingly slow and painful.
Indonesia must continue to post-

pone deht repayments to foreign creditors until it works out a realistic repayment schedule. Then Mr. Suharto must swiftly carry out his ptedge, made to the monetary fund in exchange for a \$43 hillion bailout, to fix Indonesia's hankrupt banking system. He appears to think he can grab the \$43 hillion yet keep doing as he pleases.

Fortunately, the monetary fund has threatened to cut off the money if Mr. Suharto proceeds with his foolhardy idea. The dictatorial Indonesian leader has the power to impose his irresponsible will on his countrymen. But the IMF must tell him the West will not be complicit.

THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Pentagon Pep Rally

The Clinton administration, while still hoping for a diplomatic solution to the standoff in Iraq, has decided that it must educate the American people on why force may be needed, with all its inherent risks. To that end, President Bill Clinion led a kind of pep rally at the Pentagon Tuesday that, it seems to us, went only partway toward meeting its goals.

What was objectionable was oot so much that the session began with an inappropriate and trivializing ritual of sycophantic self-praise moving up the chain of command - with the Joint Chiefs chairman, General Hugh Shelion, fawning over Defense Sec-retary William Cohen ("an extraordinary man": Mr. Cohen paying tribute to Vice President Al Gore ("a firm and steady hand in our nation's foreign diplomacy"), and Mr. Gore delivering a campaign-style introduction for the president ("the man whose leadership and commitment to our nation's security and strength have done so much for the cause of peace and freedom around the world').

The more serious problem was the Mr. Clinton is right to give every reaquestions Mr. Clinton did not answer. The president ably laid out the need to take action. Saddam Hussein himself promised the United Nations that he would destroy his ouclear, chemical and biological weapons, Mr. Clinton pointed out. But the Iraqi leader has repeatedly lied about his arsenal since making that promise, lies made perfectly evident by the repeated amendments Iraq makes to its declarations

when caches are uncovered. Mr. Clinton correctly noted that Saddam Hussein has put himself in a different category from any other leader, even those who also may aspire to or possess chemical weapons, because he has repeatedly used such weapons against his own and other people. And Mr. Clinton said that the credibility and future effectiveness of the United Nations, not just the United States, is on the line. Saddam Hussein's regime "threatens the safety of his people, the stability of his region and the security of all the rest of us," Mr.

But if the Iraqi threat is that serions, Mr. Clinton was less persuasive in arguing that he has found an equally serious remedy. His rhetoric has downshifted from promising to deny Sad-dam the capability to use weapons of mass destruction to pledging only to diminish that capability. He has said the United States will be ready to strike again if necessary.

But it is far from clear that air strikes are an effective weapon against the capabilities at issue here, and it is even less certain how the UN if it does not get its inspectors back into Iraq, will have sufficient information in six months or a year to credibly threaten a second round of military action.

For now, the administration's plan may well be the best of many bad

options, though that is not much of a slogan for a pep rally. It's easy, and in many cases justified, to point to the Bush and Clinton administration mistakes that helped produce this fix, hut doing so does not make the challenge

any simpler.

It's also easier to point to shortcomings in the administration strategy than to devise a better plan; Republican calls to give more money to Ratho Free Iraq and the like may make sense but do oot add up to a solution.

More far-reaching military action, such as the use of ground troops, would entail huge risks, too, which is why few of the administration's critics endorse such action. Still, if Saddam Hussein is as insupportable a threat as Mr. Clinton suggests, the U.S. president needs to explain why such an alternative is not being considered. At a minimum, he needs to present air strikes as merely one stage in a campaign that may need to he sustained well into the future.

The nations that have objected so loudly to military action beretofore also have a special responsibility now. sonable diplomatic option a chance to play out, including mediation by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan if it can be arranged. But he is also right to insist, as should every United Narions Security Council member, that the only acceptable outcome is one that allows UN inspectors to freely pursue their jobs for as long as they deem

If Saddam Hussein does not consent, it will be fair to ask the French. Russian, Japanese and Chinese governments not just to get out of the way hut to support - militarily or financially—the only viable option Iraq has left to the world.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Nigerian Intervention

gality in the region.

Herald Cribune

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Nigerian involvement in driving the rebels ont of Freetown does not mean that Nigeria has suddenly become a staunch defender of constitutional le-

In fact, Nigeria's intervention in Sierra Leone is motivated more by the desire to strengthen its influence in West Africa and to enhance its lately

tarnished prestige. Furthermore, just as Nigerian troops are entering Freetown, a trial has begun in central Nigeria against a group of generals accused of conspiring against President Sani Abacha's

One cannot help suspecting that another reason the leaders in Abuja are willing to send their elite troops abroad is to keep them out of mis-

-Neue Zurcher Zeitung (Zurich).

Drop Clinton's Budget By John F. Cogan

STANFORD, California — In his State of the Union Message, President Bill Clinton called for using "every dime" of the hudget surplus 10 help ensure the future of the

Social Security retirement system.
"Save Social Security first!" was his simple prescription

"Save Social Security first! was an simple prescription for how to use the money. His budget, however, contains a different message: "Spend it!"

The president's hadget proposals woold, over the long term, divert the surplus to other government programs. Future Social Security recipients — and the public at large — would be a supplied to the public of the surplus of the security of the surplus of the security of the surplus of the security of be better off if Congress simply igoored the president's

The president's hudget predicts that without any changes in taxes, and if Congress continues to live within the spending limits that it previously agreed to, the economy will create a hudget surplus next year. The amount of the surplus is projected to rise each year thereafter, reaching nearly \$90

The president, though, is proposing a raft of additional spending programs and higher taxes to pay for them. Initially, the new spending is less than the new taxes. But after 2001, when the full impact of the president's proposals is realized, the new spending would exceed the added revenue. Financing the shortfall would require a future president to

draw from the surplus - the one that Mr. Clinton has pledged for Social Security. Even the president's budget predicts that more and more of the surplus would be siphoned off for these programs. By 2003, the last year for which his budget provides estimates, the amount would reach \$7 billion.

The Clinton administration's defenders might counter that the diversion is relatively small. But that misses the fundamental point: The administration's proposals would lead the country in the wrong direction.

There are several schoots of thought on how Social Security might be salvaged — building a surplus in the program, privatizing it or increasing economic growth. But the president's idea — pledging the surplus to the task but then later

taking it away — is unique.

Also, history shows that both Republicans and Democrats tend to underestimate the cost of new programs and overstate the revenue from tax increases. Thus those small diversions the president is projecting for a few years hence to pay for his 1999 initiatives will probably loom large by 2012, when the first baby boomers retire.

The writer, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, is a former deputy director of the Office of Management and Budger. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

Attacking Iraq: Immoral and Counterproductive

PARIS — Nearly everyone by now seems agreed that air attacks on Iraq by the United States could not accomplish what Washingtoo wants, which at a minimum is to restore free movement for UN arms inspectors, and

at most to overturn Saddam Hussein. Nearly everyone actually seems to gree that such attacks would terminate UN inspections for good, strengtheo the Iraqi president's political position and further destabilize the Gulf and Middle East, while weakening the influence of the United States.

Some logical people therefore say don't do it. Some others have logically concluded that it is necessary to do much more: invade and occupy Iraq, depose Saddam Hussein and sponsor a replacement government.

Since few officially engaged in the conduct of American policy want to call off the war - having been marching up this hill for weeks now, fifes skirling and drums pounding - and still fewer have any appetite for a real war with many dead Americans, the logical conclusion the analyst must draw is that the United States will go ahead with the attack, which will fail, as predicted, followed by all of the bad consequences that everyone has already foreseen.

The affair no longer is connected to common reality. It is a matter of symbolic action and gesture, related to polit-

1990s, the country was devas-

tated by the disastrous policies

of its leaders, which led to a

Today, the Iraqi people con-

tinne to bear terrible hard-

ships. Illness, malnutrition and

The hurden of responsibility

for their suffering lies squarely

on the shoulders of one person

sistent refusal to comply with

UN Security Council resolu-

rions, his unceasing efforts to

huild weapons of mass destruc-

tion and his hlatant attempts to

manipulate and choreograph

the misery of Iraqi women and children make clear his utter

lack of concern for his own

The current situation traces its origins to the 1990 invasion

of Kuwait. After reversing

- Saddam Hussein. His con-

poverty are rampant.

decade of almost constant war,

By William Pfaff

ical power, policy investment and status inside Washington, and is now driven forward for the sake of its media narration, which, in the amhient narcissism, has become the operative reality.

Iraq is no tonger a place but a concept. The new Hollywood film "Wag the Dog," which portrays a scandal-challenged president staging a computer-generated, special-effects television paragraphs an imaginary Altelevision war against an imaginary Albania, suggests only half the truth about Washington today. The actual Iraq and its president now are figurants in the great audiovisual game of international affairs as played in Washington.

Do they not bleed, those Iraqis? For too many in the Washington policy community, they bleed no more than Bruce Willis bleeds, or Arnold Schwarzenegger — or Dr. No. They hleed only for those for whom this is not a virtual game, such as those aboard the carrier jets that will be launched into 4 A.M. darkness next week, when the Olympic Games are over (so we are told to expect), who will also face the possibility of dying — possibly, after ejecting, by being stoned to death on the ground by their bombings' wretched victims.

l am no pacifist, having spent my 20s as a volunteer to fight America's hot fronted with the desperate problems of

tween the acts and the intended results,

are immoral. I regret that the United States in recent years has abandoned that principle and has carried out several intrinsically futile and fundamentally self-indulgent attacks on other states, including the invasions of Grenada and Panama, and

inal and a despicable tyrant is beyond doubt, but the American plan is not to snatch him away for delivery to The Hague war crimes tribunal, while liberating his nation's people. In practice the United States would seem to punish the despot's people because of the des-

The Gulf War was justified, as was the Falklands War. Both responded to acts of aggression, were successful and vindicated the principles of international legality. The prospective attack on Iraq responds to outlaw conduct and to the hypothetical threat of aggression but offers no serious prospect of changing either. The UN Security Council and the majority of nations in the region, as elsewhere, have thus far declined to endorse an attack.

and cold wars, but I believe that acts of war without clearly achievable objectives, without a clear connection be-

that it is now building up to another.

That Saddam Hussein is a war crim-

analytical community in the United States and Britain looked for help from

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philosophy and theology.

Certain American strategic thinkers and military men were particularly in a fluenced by the reflections on was a morality by Thomas Aquinas and the late-Renaissance Spanish theologians Francisco Suárez

Their arguments concerning a run war hold, among other things, that a war should be undertaken by lawfuld anthority, be an act of last resort, employ only proportionate violence, create fewer wrongs than it rights and enjoy a reasonable expectation off achieving a victory that accomplishes the purposes for which it was beginn it

I cannot see that any of those criterias are met in what America proposes to do to Iraq. The theologians specifically condemn a war that is waged merely tou maintain a nation's prestige.

Washington today is not in the habita of consulting either theological ord philosophical opinion in the coasse of its policy deliberations. However, the force of the arguments I have cited lies? not in their authority but in their com-n mon sense. Surely we are not impervious to common sense?

International Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

It's Up to Saddam to End the Suffering of the Iraqi People

UNITED NATIONS, New York — For far too many By Bill Richardson The writer is U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. years, the Iraqi people have been forced to bear an onerous hurden. During the 1980s and early

Iraq's weapons of mass destructioo program would be fully dismantled and that Saddam would be prevented from and medicine.

rebuilding his military forces. These sanctions exempted food and medicine, which Iraq remains free to purchase on the open market. The international community has never sought to punish the Iraql people for the sins of their leaders.

Clearly, however, Saddam Hussein's priorities lie elsewhere. At the same time that Iraqis are suffering from food shortages and a lack of civilian bousing, Saddam has spent as much as \$2 billion on lavish palaces for himself and his rul-

ing clique.
What's more, Iraq continues to hoard and stockpile food and Iraqi aggressioo in the Gulf medicine for use by its military while his people were suffering, these weapons and the War, the UN Security Council and regime supporters, while Saddam rejected this proposal, neighbors is reduced.

passed a series of resolutions drastically reducing programs — enforced by international of humanitarian assistance for sanctions - to help ensure that its own people. The result is that today the people of Iraq rely almost exclusively on the United Nations for their food

> The fact is, the Iraqi regime has demonstrated a far greater desire to continue building weapons of mass destruction than it has to feeding its own people. Developing mustard gas, anthrax or the nerve agent VX never fed ooe hungry child, but for the Iraqi regime it seems to be far more important.

> Led by the United States, the international community has sought to help fraq generate the revenue it needs to purchase food and medicine. We proposed that Iraq be allowed to sell limited quantities of oil in exchange for burnanitarian supplies. For four years, however,

than 3 million tons of food have been delivered to the Iraqi people and 95 percent of all contracts for food and medicine have been approved.

Even so, Iraq recently requested that the UN defer consideration of contracts for \$120 million in humanitarian assistance. In UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's recent report on the oil-for-food program, he noted that most of the delays and disruptions in the delivery of food and medicine had been caused not by the United Nations or the international community but by Iraqi actions.

The grave threat that weapons of mass destruction pose, as well as Saddam's past inclination to use them against combatants and civilians alike, precludes any compromise on the part of the international community in ensuring that these weapons and threaten its on the Iraqi people be lifted.

neighbors is reduced.

Dos Angeles Times Syndicate.

Last year, Iraq finally allowed an oil-for-food program

States — along with its cold leagues in the United Nations. -- remains committed to ending Iraq's suffering. In particular we have now received Secretary-General Annan's report on ways to improve the effective of ness and the implementation of: the oil-for-food program.

We are prepared to support a significant increase in the scope of this program, including expanding oil sales to allow-for the additional purchase of food and medicine. Unlike Saddam Hussein, we will nove hold the Iraqi people hostage. The line the end, however, respon-

sibility for the plight of Iraq's people lies not in New York or Washington but in Baghdad. If the Iraqi regime truly cares? about its people, its course of action is clear. Comply with UN resolutions; spend money on food, not weapons and palaces, and make a serious effort to alleviate the nation's suffering: Iraq's capacity to produce Only then will the tragic burden.

After Suharto. Who? The Answer Is Far From Obvious

By Alan Dupout → ANBERRA — Two widely

beld misperceptions about Indonesia have gained currency in recent months. The first is that the country is

on the verge of collapse as the government of President Suharto struggles to turn around its battered economy and keep the lid on escalating political and social tensions. While there is no doubt that

this is the most serious crisis of confidence the retired general has faced, Indonesia is far from the level of economic chaos,

civil unrest and anarchy that

presideot, Sukarno. Mr. Suharto, 76, is still in the driver's seat, and for all the erosion of his moral and political authority he remains a formidable and resilient leader.

Food riots and other social disturhances, while spreading, have yet to seriously challenge the government's writ.
Moreover, the armed forces

civil unrest and anarchy that — including the police, which existed in 1965, when he replaced the country's founding mand - are far better equipped and trained to manage civil dis-

> The secood misperception concerns the significance of the vice presidential election next month, which will accompany the presidential election.

turbances than they were in the

Most analysts assume that the successful vice presidential candidate, now almost certain to be the controversial research and technology minister, B. J. Habibie, will become Mr. Suharto's long-term successor if the president steps down or is incapacitated during his next

five-year term. For this reason, the March meeting of the electoral college is seen as the most crucial of

Mr. Suharto's long rule. What is often forgotten, however, is that if the vice president replaces Mr. Subarto before the president's term expires, he must be confirmed within six months by a special session of the t.000-member electoral college, known as the People's Consultative As-sembly. It is by no means sure that Mr. Habihie would secure the assembly's endorsement. especially if the military with-

held its support.
Military backing is vital for any aspiring presidential contender, even more so at a time of political and social strife.

The assumption that there will be a seamless transfer of power from Mr. Suharto to his vice president becomes even more problematic if Mr. Habibie is indeed the successful nominee.

Although the armed forces have endorsed the colorful but erratic science and technology czar, there is no great affection or respect for him in the officer corps. Military support for Mr. Habibie could quickly evapo-rate without Mr. Suharto's continuing patronage.
So who will be the presi-

dent's long-term successor if not Mr. Habibie? The strongest candidates appear to be the current vice president and former armed forces commander Try Sutrisno; Mr. Suharto's etdest daughter, Siti Hardianti Rukmana, and Information Minister Hartono, a retired army chief.

Mrs. Rukmana and Mr. Hartono are the least likely to succeed Mr. Suharto because they carry too much political bag-gage. Mr. Try has an outside to the alleged insulting tone of a

chance but is generally con- tious. His family connections skills and drive for the highest office.

It is more likely that Mr.

Suharto's eventual successor will come from among the ranks of the next generation of recently promoted senior military officers. The three men to watch are the armed forces commander,

General Wiranto, a former aide to Mr. Suharto; the bead of the army's strategic reserve, Lieutenant General Prabowo Subianto, who is Mr. Suharto's sonin-law, and the military's ideological watchdog, Lieutenant General Bambang Yudhoyono.

General Wiranto is almost universally well-regarded in the armed forces and elite civilian circles. While he may lack cbarisma, he has a certain presence that is important in Indonesian. especially Javanese, culture, as well as a reputation for integrity and professionalism. He lacks the broad national experience of earlier generations of military officers but is a fast learner and

a good listener. General Prabowo is highly capable, sophisticated, ruthless and a far more practiced political operator than General Wiranto. However, he has his share of detractors, who accuse him of being manipulative, emotional and too nakedly amhi-

sidered to lack the requisite have so far proved advantageous, hut whether this cootinues to be the case will depend on how long Mr. Suharto remains at the helm.

General Yndhoyono is tile dark horse of the three, but he is arguably the most intelligent and the deepest thinker. Gen-eral Prabowo probably regards him as his major rival for the top job in the armed forces and prehaps for the ultimate prize the presidency of the world's fourth most populous narional General

Wiranto must be considered the most likely long-term successor to Mr. Suharto. Little is known about how he would seek to govern Indonesia or about the kinds of economic and social policiës he would adopt. If General Wiranto does not become president himself, he will probably be the kingmaker. Certainly no saccessor to Mr. Suharto could emerge and govern without General Wiranto's support.

The writer, a former Australian diplomat who was posted to an diplomat who was posted in Jakarta from 1991 to 1994 is the director of the Asia-Pacific the director of the Asia-Pacific the Aust security program at the Aust tralian National University's Strategic and Defense Studies Center in Canberra. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune. To

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO'

1898: Lagos Incident

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] A telegram from Lagos records the occupation by British native troops of Borea in the Lagos Hinterland, and the subsequent arrival on the spot of a French officer who ordered the British flag to be hauled down. This request being disregarded, he withdrew with his forces, refusing the offers of a conference made hy the British commander. Such is the incident which caused a great sensation in the House of Commons.

1923: German Expelled

DUSSELDORF - Dr. Gruetzner, President of the Prussian Government District, in which are included Düsseldorf and the Ruhr area, was arrested by the French and expelled from occupied into unoccupied German

letter written by Dr. Gruetznetis protest against the conviction of Dr. Jarres, Mayor of Duisburg, and sentence of one month's im-prisonment for defying the French authorities, is the most sensational sanction yet taken a

1948: De Valera Loses

DUBLIN — John A. Costello and Dublin lawyer, was elected Prime Minister of Eire after Park liament defeated Eamon De Valera's bid for a return 26 power. Mr. De Valera had been rime Minister for sixteen years: His downfall brought Eire her third Premier since creation of the Irish Free State in 1921. Mil De Valera's predecessor was William Cosgrave, who accepted a treaty with Britain creating the Free State. Mr. De Valer opposed the treaty and elever years ago fostered a new Irish constitution which formed the independent Republic of Eireco

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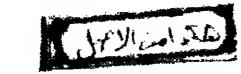
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OPINION/LETTERS



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erproductive Rushing to Clone People: The Seed of a Bad Idea

Frankies Sudiez. The Richard Seed. Would you take and your infertility problems to tric your infertility problems to your infertility

the tree the facelegian purpose Consider the face that is a good not "Clones are going to be fun. I

That prospect alone would have chilled any lingering support for human cloning. And that was before the man cloning. And that was before the Raelian Movement, a Francis Francis House House Swiss cult that believes life on Earth was created by extrater-restrials, offered seed money to more sense Surely we de lot a restriais.

The whole thing has had the aura of high comedy, not cutting-edge science. But Mr. Seed planted a reminder in the fertile I to the state of the state of

public imagination.

Soon after his announcement, Dolly the sheep was followed by George and Charlie the calf clones. We are told that pigs are in the offing. A general notion has grown that sooner or later, somewhere or other, somebody will try to reproduce another body. softensible of the state of the

House called for a five-year ban on cloning people, the Food and Drug Administration warned against cloning without its permission, and two pieces of antimission, and two pieces of anti-cloning legislation were filed in the U.S. Senate.

How did we get so far afield so

ment scian. fast?

Human reproductive technology has been treated as if it were just another bastion of free enterprise. The hosiness has been driven by infertility. In this world, the customer is always right. Supply must meet demand.
The desire of adults for children

ply must meet demand.

The desire of adults for children has led us, with the best of in-

came out of the test tube, down the hirth canal and into the public that has to be nipped before the hirth canal and into the public that limelight, in vitro fertilization was a shock. Now it's nearly routine.

States and Errian looked for being the particles of the particles of the territories of human clone-making the husiness of human clone-making seriously. Consider the most celebrated would-be clone-maker:

Richard Seed. Would you take your infertility problems to put to harvest sperm from dead men, and would-be grandparents who tried to use their dead daughter's ovum to create a baby.

At no time was there a public consensus or even discussion before. The decisions were fact. The decisions were fact. The decisions were fact.

essentially left to fertility doctors and their customers.

The loose and largely unregulated nature of fertility treatment is partly due to arguments about reproductive freedom that spill over from the abortion debate. The advancing technology is also protected under the rubric of free scientific inquiry.

But the operating instructions

of private clinics have been, in the words of an ethicist at the Chicago-Kent College of Law, Lori Andrews, "Show me the money." I have no idea if infertile adults would line up to be cloning guinea

pigs hut, as Ms. Andrews says, "I think we are creating needs rather than meeting them.

There is no "need" for a clone. And no excuse. The medical risks of failure are horrendous. In cloning sheep, the

rate of success was one healthy Dolly for 277 attempts. We have no idea bow much greater the chances of miscarriage or deformities are for humans. As for the ethical, legal, psychological, philosophical risks of

success — the odds are even worse. The legal world is already asking whether a clone is a person or a copy of a person. Does the original "own" the copy? What does it say about a parent who reproduces himself or herself? What does it mean to a child? That he or she is a commodity?

When we talk about bans, someone in the scientific community inevitably warns us about stopping progress. But as the Democratic version of the Senate anti-cloning legislation suggests, it is not that hard to keep medical research on track while forbidding the creation of a human clone.

Spare us Mr. Seed and any other little seedlings getting ready to case in oo clones. This is one idea

The Boston Globe.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Netanyahu's Failures Regarding "Israelis View

Peuce Process as on 'Artificial Respirator" (Feb. 4):

It is simply appalling to see that, once again, peace is escaping the Middle East. While it has become fashionable to blame Beniamin Netanyahu for being brutal toward the Palestinians, it is no less appropriate to consider bow he has failed his fellow Jews.

He promised peace and security when he was elected. There is no peace. The Jews are now closer than ever to fighting one another: religious versus secular, nationalist versus pacifist.

Nor is there security. Suicide bomhings have resumed and a resurgence of the intifada is now When things have come to such

a point, questioning the government's policies is no longer a matter of domestic politics but a matter of survival. BERNARD HENRY.

Garches, France.

Capitalism's Promise

Regarding "People First: The World Economy Needs Regulation" (Opinion, Feb. 13) by Wil-Mr. Pfaff returns to a favorite

ive ideology that holds that the "universal search for individual self-aggrandizement automatically promotes collective happi-ness." This sncering character-

ization of individual choice is a backhanded way of saying that other people do not understand what is in their own best interest as well as Mr. Pfaff does. Mr. Pfaff repeats the elitist

fairy tale that presends globalization exploits nearly all workers and benefits no one hut a few malevolent multinational corporarions. But the fact is that free markets have proved to be much less flawed than any other system in creating wealth and opportunity for the average person.

Mr. Pfaff revels in a patrician contempt for modern economics and free markets. But he is indifferent to the huge, often desperate world below his privileged perch. The planet holds nearly 6 hillion people, most of them poor, who must eventually be brought into the world economy. Freemarket capitalism is beginning to

BRIAN REICHENBACH. Bacolod City, Philippines.

Modern Music

Regarding "How to Separate the Old and the New: Let's Hear Is theme: Free-market capitalism for Musical Ghettos" (Features, and globalization represent a na-

Finally, somebody said it: Classical and modern music, and their respective audiences, have nothing in common. It's a disgrace that all the vi-

olinists who have had to practice from childhood 10 get 10 a pro-fessional level are forced to end up playing Stockhausen, Boulez and their ilk. Isn't it time for somebody to

challenge the modern-music establishment and say the emperor is wearing no clothes? As a composer and music lover, I've found that if there is no feeling behind the music, it's not worth being played, MARTIN HEIDARI. Bad Vilbel, Germany,

An Appetite for Tea Far from being composed of the

finicky doily-hased mini-sandwiches prepared by the etiquene expert for Dave Barry ("A Cold Beer Guide to Good Manners," Feb. 14) "high tea" in England is a robust tea-cum-supper served to children or hungry workers who prefer to eat their evening meal immediately upon returning home. A favorite high tea when I was a child in Yorkshire consisted of ham with a fried egg on top and "hot cakes," freshly baked rolls of soda bread. ADRIENNE FARRELL

JACKSON. Bougy-Villars, Switzerland.

Amid Its Troubles, Japan Revels in Olympic Feats

By Steven R. Weisman

for me, what stands out at Nagano him. this winter is the Japaneseness of the Olympics and the way the Games open a window into a country at a time of pessimism and self-doubt.

The Japanese are not known for their displays of emotion, yet emotions over the victories of Japanese athletes have flooded forth.

MEANWHILE The Games seem to be serving as

both catharsis and reflection of Japan's current difficulties. Seven years ago, when Nagano was chosen for the Olympics, Ja-

pan was at the top of its game. Then the economic hubble burst, and the logic of serving as Olympic host turned upside down. To its embarrassmeni, Japan was forced to scale back its extravagant promises to pay travel and other expenses for athletes, The Japanese are now worried that the billions spent for the Games will leave mountainous debis and useless arenas 100 costly to keep up. Sullenness over the cost has

been momentarily banished by the thrill of Japan's first individual gold medals in the Winter Olympics since the 1972 Sapporo Games. The whole country has gone wild over gold medals for Tae Satoya in the women's mogul skiing event and Hiroyasu Shimizu in speed skaring. In a deeply moving gesture in a land of ancestor worship, Satoya carried a picture of her father, who died in July, in her breast pocket, while Shimizu visited his father's grave the day after his victory to tell him the news.

As for the opening ceremonies, what could have been a spectacle of strutting was instead loaded with self-ahasement and crosscultural confusion. The artificial doves, looking like origami halloons, were described by announcers as gestures of atonement for Japanese misdeeds earlier in the century. The appearance of Seiji Ozawa of the Boston Symphony seemed aimed at hurying some ill feelings of a different kind. It was a reminder of how he had left Japan as a young man, only to return in a disastrous visit in the

TEW YORK — The Olympics always present a full palette of feelings about the athletes. But

The conductor has been welcomed hack in recent years, and his rendition of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" marked a full reconciliation.

The Japanese are fascinated by bow others perceive them and often willingly embrace oursiders' perceptions.

In the 19th century, English visitors said Japan's central mountains reminded them of Switzerland. Presto, they became the Japan Alps. But what possessed the Japanese to have the figure skater Midori lio light the Olympic torch accompanied by "Un bel di" from Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," evoking Japan's seduction and betrayal hy the United States?

These Olympics have been justly praised for eschewing the hucksterism of Atlanta. But, as is often the case with Japan, the situation is more complicated. The mastermind of the games is the mysterious Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, one of the wealthiest men in the world, and the owner of Japan's higgest luxury hotel chain. As head of the Olympic Or-

ganizing Committee, the tycoon persuaded the Japanese government to spend billions of dollars on improvements in Nagano, including a hullet train from Tokyo. By no coincidence, all these expenditures greatly benefited his many ski resorts and hotels in the area. He was forced to resign as chairman of the organizing committee when such rewards became an embarrassment. But his role is a perfect illustration of Japan's problems with crony capitalism, and the mixture of public goods and private enrichment that bas got Japan into so much economic trouble in recent years. The 1964 Summer Games in

Tokyo are remembered because they left a legacy of superhigh-ways and marked the arrival of a rehuilt, democratic postwar Japan. The Nagano Olympics seem likely to be recalled as a moment when the Japanese celebrated their Olympic accomplishments and yet were reminded of the troubles they tried so hard to set The New York Times.

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THE OTHER SIDE A Story of Two Towns, a Death

and America's Dilemma

Nan A. Talesel Doubleday. By Alex Kotlowitz 317 pages. \$24.95.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

F all of the many books written about race in America in the past couple of years, none has been quite like
The Other Side of the River," Alex Kollowitz's unanced and absorbing account of the mysterions death of a young black man in southwestern Michigan in 1991.

Kotlowitz, a former Wall Street Jour-nal reporter whose last book was There Are No Children Here," a 1991 study of a Chicago bousing project, Spent four years looking into this mys-lety, trying to answer the basic ques-tions. Was the death of the young man a was the death of the young man a gime or an accident? And if it was a come, who committed it? He sprinkles his text with numerous

problems, but be never resolves them. And while this leads the reader to a entain sense of frustration, it also to study to study a deeper appreciation for the study study and a study of many events in the real world.

MAS he takes us on his journey, Kotlowitz succeeds in his real purpose, which is to amplify our understanding of the many ways, subtle and not so subtle, in which past experience and present Circumstance continue to divide the The victim was a leave camps. McGinnis, whose body was fished out of the St. Joseph River on May 22, 1991, three days after he disappeared. The liver marks a familiar divide in Amer-

West of it, along the shores of Lake Michigan, is the white town of St. Soteph, dominated by Hallmark Carl Michigan, is the white town of St.

Joseph, dominated by Hallmark Card

Mages of American well-being. East of

The river is Benton Harbor, a mostly MARINE MARINE

dealing gangs, a murder rate three times as high as New York's or Chicago's and many of the other ills normally found in bigger inner-city communities. When Eric's body was found, police

BOOKS

tended to believe that he had been the victim of an accidental drowning, not an unusual occurrence at that point in the river, and most people in St. Joseph accepted their explanation. In Benton Harbor, the prevailing belief was that Eric had been murdered and that the crime, one of white racism, was being covered up by the white-dominated St. Joseph police. Or, as Kotlowitz puts this early on:

In the tumultuous weeks and months following the discovery of Eric McGinnis' body, as the police tried to find out how he had ended up in the river, the contour of relations between the two communities came into focus: the mistrust, the misunderstanding and the fear — even of the truth. Eric's death became a kind of "Rashomon" of the races, with relations between the towns distorting the perceptions of what happened on the

night he disappeared."
In the aftermath of the O.J. Simpson case, the reflexive difference of view between hlacks and whites is more or less what we would expect it to be, so Kotlowitz's portrait of these two Middle American towns does not exactly come as a surprise. What makes this story so compelling is the way the author re-moves the racial divide from abstraction and places it in the concrete. In his trustworthy hands, the death of young Eric McGinnis ramifies into a vivid American microcosm, a telling tableau of the way we are.

Kotlowitz goes to extraordinary lengths to solve the mystery of Eric's death, sifting the contradictory evidence, interviewing witnesses, hanging out with the chief detective in charge of the case and with Eric's grieving mother. At one point he even takes a canoe trip down the St. Joseph River to test whether the cur-rent or the wind could blow a floating body upstream.

black community afflicted by drug- Kotlowitz's portrait is by no means an entirely depressing one. He records plenty of racial hatred on the white side of the fence, including people who use the word "nigger" almost as a matter of course. These are the people who feel that Eric, in coming into the white town the fateful night of his disappearance and, according to some, dancing with white girls at a local juice bar and possihly stealing money from an unlocked got what he deserved. On the black side, there is some heavy racial posturing and a number of episodes of what comes across as an irrational, ver-

itably paranoid suspicion of all whites. But on both sides Kotlowitz also manages to find a decent moral middle, a group of individuals striving to reach beyond racial group-think to a sense of common burnanity. One such person is Ruth McGinnis, Eric's mother, among whose theories is that Eric may actually have been killed by some other hlack youths with whom he had run afoul. Another is Jim Reeves, the white de-

tective responsible for the investigation. Reeves's actions and responses, carefully catalogued by Kotlowitz, make him out to be not just a conscientious man but also one of almost saintly forbearance. But Reeves, too, makes some mistakes, and Kotlowitz, who provides intriguing if in-conclusive evidence that Eric may indeed have been murdered by St. Joseph whites, does not hesitate to point them out.

MIDWAY through his examination, Kotlowitz remarks of Benton Har-bor and St. Joseph that "one can't belp being nware of the turbulence of one and the tranquillity of the other.'

Through all of the confusion created by Eric McGinnis's death, the competing

subjectivities, the contradictions in the available evidence, the frequent duplicity of memory, Kotlowitz never loses sight of that essential fact. It is the difference between the two towns, one white, one black, that anchors his story, gives it its soul, and makes it important, essential even, for the rest of us to contemplate. New York Times Service



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· Constitution in the state of 1948: De la File American bridge uses agreement of Bessive bidding methods the

By Alan Truscott

design of the second surprise the second surprise the second surprise the second secon And Eric Rodwell have won several world titles and are proceed to win more but have not revealed their secrets in limit. Larry Cohen and David Erkowitz, who are likely to world honors some day, have been slightly more forthead the law of Total ficks, which guides players likely to be a significant to bid in competitive anctions.

Some useful clues to the modern bidding style bave club lead with dummy's ace Cypress Circle, Lake Worth, Florida 33467, for \$19.95 including mailing. Topics include when to double, build-ing successful parmerships, match-point tactics and con-

ventions used by top players. The diagramed deal indishows a limit raise or better. But if he fails to take the diaand South bids game. But mond king he will be end-East has had a chance to bid clubs, indicating the safest diamonds and the game will opening lead to his partner.

been provided by two new and takes a trump finesse, los-authors at 6260 Grand ing to the king. Another cluh Cypress Circle, Lake Worth, lead is ruffed, and South cashes the spade ace. He theo leads a small diamond, and AK4 West must be alert. South's VAQ92 opening bid followed by a 0 K73 jump to game makes it clear \$Q953 that he must have the diamond ace and the heart king. bid to belp partner find the mond king, and return a diamond. Then he must make lowing a take-out double two heart tricks at the finish.

♥KJ104 OAJ4 Both sides are vulnerable. The bid 2 N.T Pass Pass

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A CONTRACTOR

Nanotubes Expected to Replace Silicon Devices

By Malcolm W. Browne New York Times Service

CIENTISTS experimenting with a fascinating speck of matter called a single-walled carbon nanotube say this elegantly geometrical molecule is about to ignite a revolution in electronics, computers, chemistry and new structural materials.

In place of the relatively large elecfonic devices incorporated in siliconased chips, physicists have proved that is possible to create devices on an atomic and molecular scale. A single lectron in a single-wall carboo nanimbe could function as a micromini-

Nanotubes only a few atoms in diameter, which spontaneously form from hexagonal arrays of carbon atoms, were iscovered in 1991 by Dr. Sumio lijima of NEC Fundamental Research Labgratories in Tsukuba, Japan. These ubes, actually elongated molecules, form in furnaces from vapor generated by carbon arcs and lasers. They take their name from the nanometer, a unit of theasurement one-hillionth of a meter long - a coovenient length for spedifying molecular dimensions.

Several recent reports show that nan-drubes only one-50,000th the thickness of a buman hair can perform the same electronic functions as vastly larger silicon-based devices. As a result, a comduter based on nanotube devices could be extremely compact, fast and powerful.

LEX Zettl and his research group at the University of California at A Berkeley recently showed that when two slightly dissimilar nanotube molecules were joined end to end, the 'iunction'' between them functioned as an electronic device called a diode. Diodes are the basis of rectifiers, devices that are commonly used to convert al-

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physics I berkeley edulresearch! mceucn/people/bockrath/research.html ternating current into direct current.

"When we grow nanombes," Dr. Zettl said, "electronic devices naturally form on them."

As ever smaller electronic devices are needed to improve the speed and power of computers, "the silicoo industry is coming up against a brick wall," Dr. Zettl said. The solution may be to replace the silicon-based devices used today with minuscule carbon molecules, which would have another advantage: They conduct heat much faster than silicon and therefore would be more suitable for microelectronics.

OOKING farther into the future, Dr. Zettl suggested that clumps of carbon nanotubes might spontaneously organize their electronic interactions into complex webs analogous to the neural networks of the brain. The density of nanotube interconnections achieved by clumping them together is staggering; if all the nanotube carbon molecules that could be packed into a one-half-inch cube were laid end to end, they would extend 250,000 miles (400,000 kilometers). Dr. Zettl speculated in an interview

that a random jumble of nanotubes in such a cube could generate a network of nanocomputers that might be able to perform complex tasks and reconfigure itself to improve its own efficiency.
Such a "tube cube," as Dr. Zettl calls

the imaginary nanotube brain, may never materialize. But recent research offers strong evidence that nanotubes have, at least, a great electronic future.

Research reported in October by Dr.
Zettl and his colleagues produced evidence that a single nanotube molecule could contain many tiny devices: transistors and other essential components of electronic systems.

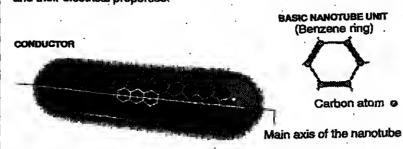
At NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field in California, a group recently reported that by inserting defects into the junctions between metal-like; nanotubes and semiconductor nanotubes, it had created a variety of junction types within a single nanotube molecule.

A pair of papers published in January in the journal Nature, one by chemists at Harvard University and the other by scientists at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and Rice University in Houston, independently reported the discovery that the electronic properties of a nanotube depended on the molecule's twist.

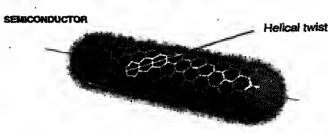
nanotubes as sheets of graphite only one

In a Few Atoms, Many Possibilities

Nanotubes, molecules made mainly of carbon atoms, might one day replace silicon chips in computers much smaller than today's models. Nanotubes can be formed from condensed carbon vapor and they are 1/50,000th as thick as a human hair. Here are some types of nanotubes and their electrical properties.

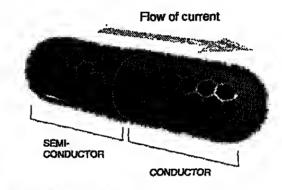


When the carbon rings line up with the main axis of a nanotube, the molecule conducts electricity as easily as if it were metal.



When the pattern of hexagonal rings in a nanotube is twisted, the nanotube acts like a semiconductor. That means it conducts electricity only after a certain threshold is reached.

When two nanotubes, one a conductor and one a semiconductor, are joined into one molecule, their junction acts like a diode, permitting electric current to flow only in one direction.



Source: University of California at Berkeley

bon vapor. Carboo atoms linked together in graphite sheets spontaneously form

pattern resembling chicken wire.
When such a sheet rolls itself into a Chemists describe the raw material of tube so that its edges join seamlessly together, a nanotube is formed. Usually,

atom thick that are condensed from car- hemispherical caps form at the ends of

each tube, closing it.
The group in the Netherlands and the Harvard team both reported that there was a strong relationship between a nanombe's electronic properties and its diameter and degree of twist.

ALT / Q&A With Paul Otellini

Intel Casts Its Net Wide As New Markets Beckon

A sexecutive vice president for Intel Corp.'s sales for the past four years, Paul Otellini has focused on extending the chipmaker's global presence. Mr. Otellini, 47, who has been with Intel since 1974, took over last month as general manager of the Intel architecture business groop and is seen as the third-ranking Intel executive behind Andrew Grove, chairman, and Craig Barrett, president.

On a recent trip to Paris, be spoke with editors of the International Herald Tribune about Intel's place in world markets.

O. How dependent is Intel on the growth of your international markets? A. I would say very. Most of our husiness is not U.S. and hasn't been for some time. I'm in a new job now, hat four years ago I took over sales and marketing for Intel. Over those four years, every incremental dollar to invest went to emerging markets. We actually shrunk our resources in Western Europe and the United States to help fund some of that.

The sales in emerging markets weot from half a hillion dollars a year four years ago to over \$3 billion today. That's over 50 percent of the company. I think they are going to continue to grow as a percent. These are countries we defined as not covered three or four years ago -- Latin America, Eastern

Q. Do you see Europe in particular closing the gap technologically, making sales more difficult if their own producers emerge?

A. From a chip perspective, there really aren't any European competitors, at least for our stuff. SGS-Thomson is not even oo the radar screen oow.

I think there is an issoe with the fact that the European computer companies are sort of hanging oo at best, and they're not gaining share against the big multinationals.

I think the European computer companies have some soul-searching in terms of, "How do I compete with an aggressive Compaq or a pervasive IBM?" That's going to be tough.

The thing that is strong, though, is this category that's "other." Particularly in Europe, the "other" category, the unbranded, the brands that fall below everyone's radar screen, is 35 perceot to 40 percent of the business, dependiog on which country you're in, and remains 35 percent to 40 percent of the business year after year.

Q. Do you feel your competition in the future is going to be a cheaper chip

or a bigger, better, faster chip? A. That question gets asked every two a generational transition. I mean, would you still use a 486 today, or a 386, or a 286? Probably oot.

One is if yoo take a long-term view, say, two or three years. What we believe in



Paul Otellini, Intel vice pres

these things a hell of a lot easier to Ease of use requires more come power, oot less.

The ultimate ease of use is speech. Nobody wants to deal with commands. You want to be able to talk to it in phrases that are human-like and not DOS commands. To be able to have that interpretation and not have to be trained requires three to four times the computing power that's in a PC today. The good news is, computing power moves at that rate.

The other stuff is that I think Internet commerce is right about on us. The data I saw was that it's at \$10 billion today. It exited last year at a \$20 billion run rate, and there are projections that approach \$1 trillion in the next few years.

Andy [Grove] calls it the war for eyeballs. As there is increasing com-petition on the Net to sell services, the way you sell those is the way you do any kind of advertising, which is better Web pages, videos, that kind of stuff, All that

requires computing power.

I think it's easy to say that it's want to do is simplistic Web surfing or word-processing or simple spreadsfreet, you're right. The \$800 PC going to the \$600 or \$500 appliance is more than adequate for that. Bot I doo't think that's where the market's going to be.

Q. As dependent as you are on international sales, what is the Asia situation now?

A. We're O.K. on average, on balance. Obviously, Korea and Southeast Asia are troublesome — Thailarid and Indonesia. Malaysia's O.K. China's been very strong for us throughout his whole thing, and as long as China re-mains strong and grows, we it on bal-

ance going to be fine in Asia. Our business levels in Japan have dropped substantially from the first half years, every time we're at the middle of of last year to the second half of last year.

I have oot heard a good explanation as to why computer sales are down in There are a couple of vectors here. Japan. I don't see them getting any worse, and I don't see them getting any better. I think they're going to stay at the the industry we need to do is to make current levels for some time.

A Push to Provide 'Safe Playgrounds' in Cyberspace

By Denise Caruso

TEW YORK - One of the most striking paradoxes of Internet culture is that children are the most computer literate among us, hot their vulnerability to oo-line predators prevents their being able to enjoy or explore freely what is likely to be the defining medium of their lives.

How can on-line services create a safe place for children to meet and play together while at the same time protecting them from pedophiles and unscrupulous marketers who often pose as children? And how can we keep children away from pomographic adult sites, which are accessible at the click of a mouse?

Today's solutions to the pornograpby problem, at least, are not working very well. For example, so-called filtering programs such as Cybersitter, Net Nanny and Cyberpatrol are supposed to block access to a constantly updated list of adult World Wide Web sites. But an article in September's issue of Consumer Reports ooted that all

were relatively easy to circumvent. a company that develops on-line com-

the Safe Playgrounds Initiative. He has clean and easily applied." been discussing it privately for several months with various U.S. organizations, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties group, and the

Children's Advertising Review Unit of the Better Business Bureau. Mr. Morgan is now going public with the initiative, which he developed after deciding to huild an oo-line comall the security measures were too com-

plex or constricting. For example, the popular Disney Web site, to protect its young users and its reputation as a family company, allows children to communicate only inside its Disney Blast area, which not only requires registration but asks parents to specify with whom their chil-

dren are allowed to communicate. "Pareots can drop the restriction if they want," said Jake Winebaum, president of Disney Online. "But if they do, we educate them about the con-

sequences of their decision." Mr. Morgan wants to change the rules of engagement. "We wanted children to be able to go to places on the Web where Thomas Morgan, a longtime on-line they can feel safe to explore and play," executive and president of Nvolve Inc., he said. "We also wanted something that doesn't require every consumer to

The result was Safe Playgrounds, which Mr. Morgan is oow asking industry executives and politicians to support. Its tenets are:

To develop a "kid's browser" that includes an unbreakable bit of software code that Mr. Morgan is calling a G-bit, for general audience. This identifies the user as someone who is either uoder 18 munity for children and realizing that years old or does not want to see adult material. Web poblishers then rate and code their owo sites, and anyone who shows up at an adult site with this G-bit will be denied access.

 To stop sexual and commercial predators who seek out children on-line, by means of what Mr. Morgan calls the Safe Playground Law, which would make it a federal crime for an adult to impersonate a child on-line in any site declared a Safe Playground.

 To develop Safe Playground qualification criteria, including trained monitors in chat rooms to keep an eye peeled for predators; a guarantee that no child's full name, physical address or personal e-mail address would ever be revealed; an agreement to inform parents when sites are collecting data about youngsters; and an agreement to display only clearly identified, age-appropriate, munities, has devised a solution be calls be a Web genius — something simple, concoercive advertising messages.

"The Safe Playground criteria are very closely in sync and may even surpass what we're trying to get the in-dustry to do," said Elizabeth La Scoutz, vice president of the Council of Better Business Bureaus and the director of its

Children's Advertising Review Unit. Some executives, including Mr. Winebaum of Disney, predict that en-acting an initiative like Safe Playgrounds will be difficult, but he is also adamant that an industrywide, mandatory solution is "the only way to solve the problem on the scale that's required."

Lori Fena, chairman of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, agreed. "No one wants to pay to babyproof the Net, but everybody is willing to support creating child-safe areas like playgrounds in the real world," she said. "This initiative is the most sane thing I've seen yet socially, legally and economically.

SITES

Related sites on the Internet: The Children's Advertising Review Unit of the Council of Better Business Bureaus is at www.bbb.org/advertising/ childrensMonitor.html

 Company sites: www.nvolvekids.com/ parents html and www.disneyblast.com

TECHNOLOGY INDEX

North America	Tuesday close	% change previous week	% change veer to date		
Pacific Stock Exchange Technology	325.24	#0.0 4	+11.94		
Standard & Poor's Technology Composite	786.10	46	¥12.31		
Europe Morgan Stanley Eurotec	462.12	£2.56	+19.96		
Asia Topix Electric Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloombi	1731.02 erg News	eo.gr	+5.28		

For technology articles from the past week, see the Technology Index on the IHT's World Wide Web site at http://www.iht.com. Articles include:

Change to Euro Is Ripe for Criminals.

Feb. 13 High-Tech Imaging Reveals Ancient Ruins

in Cambodia, Feb. 14-15 France's Bull to Move Software Center to

U.S., Feb. 14-1S Global One Fires Chief Over Losses,

Feb. 14-15 Games Evolve From Shoot-Em-Ups,

 Cyberburglars Weave a Web Around Globe, Computer Crimestoppers Look for Clues in Reuters Case, Feb.18

 Computer Firm Faces Hostile Bid, Feb. 18 To reach TribTech editors or to comment

on IHT technology coverage, send e-mail to mbtech @iht.com

Computers Raise Tots' Skills but Can't Build Smarts

By Robert O'Harrow Jr. Washington Post Service

ASHINGTON - Should you be worried if your 41/2-yearold has little or no experience on a personal computer?

Many specialists say it hardly matters whether children begin clacking and clicking away at such an early age. Books, blocks and playgrounds, they say — and lots of time talking with Mom and Dad — still are more important than anything that technology can add to a preschooler's life.

Remember that computers are simply tools that can help children learn, not magic boxes that make them smarter. But if computers are ap-proached the right way, parents and educators alike say they can help impart valuable skills, if approached the in many cases, that means using

computers like a fancy toy, especially with the youngest. Children learn by exploring, building and drawing. Make your personal computer a natural addition to such perennial favorites as

crayons, paper, Legos and other staples that children use to create things.

For starters, make shapes or whimsical characters using those ubiquitous paint programs that come with a personal computer's operating software. Print out the results and make up stories

about them. As children play, they

learn about colors, perspective, rela-



Patrick Lane computing with his son Will, who likes to "sit and watch."

tionships and the computer itself how to move the mouse, double-click and issue commands.

One technology-savvy parent, Patrick Lane of Maryland, said the paint program had been a source of

deep fascination for his son Will, 21/2.
"He always likes to sit and watch; what I do is tell him what the keys and mouse are for," said Mr. Lane, leg-islative director for a Washington law firm and founder of a computer center for teachers in his county. "Basically, I young children to explore and teach let him draw. That's just more of a way them to make choices on their own.

to get him comfortable." Consider also the variety of mul-timedia programs that allow young children to cruise through electronic storybooks crammed with words, pic-

tures and song. Educators at the Center for Children and Technology, a private research con-cern in New York, say that Edmark Corp., Broderbund Software Inc. and other companies are offering an increasing number of programs that encourage ask is, 'What do you want the computer

'There's a whole host of cool tools that are every bit as interesting as pens and pencils and paper and paint," said Cornelia Brunner, a development psychologist who is assistant director of the center's educational development center. "As a creativity tool, there's great stuff." Naomi Hupert, a senior research as-

Technology, warns that too much computer time is not advisable for most young children - they oeed to play with other things. Ms. Hupert is ambivaient about ex-

sociate at the Center for Children and

pecting young children to play frequently on computers; she has a 5-yearold who has not spent moch time on one. She worries that some parents will use computers to distract their children, much the way some use videocassette recorders as baby sitters.

Ms. Hupert also cautions parents not to expect magic from computers and not to use them solely as electronic tutors, unless parents want to turn their children off to the joys of discovery and deeper learning.
Young children learn best by cre-

ating and exploring, she says, so it is better not to use a computer as a "skill and drill" machine to prepare them for theoretical math or grammar tests. "It shouldn't replace parents sitting down and reading to their child." Ms. Hupert said. "An important question to

BRIEFLY

PRATT & WHITNEY'S GAM-BLE: Hoping to regain its once-leading share of the global market for jet en-gines. Pratt & Whitney announced this week that it would introduce a radical new design that it said would result in a quieter, cleaner, more efficient and more reliable engine than anything now offered by its competitors.

The new engine, which is expected to eoter service in 2002, is designed to propel a single-aisle jetliner holding 120 to 180 passengers, like the Boeing 737 or the Airbus A320. The design employs a gear box that

enables the large turbofan, which creates most of a jet engine's thrust, to spin slowly while still letting the turbine that powers it to spin fast. The result is improved fuel economy and less coise. The new engine is not yet wedded to a specific airplane, a considerable gamble given the \$350 million that the company

has spent on development. • SARDINED DISK DRIVES: Seagate Technology Inc. says it has figured out a way to use lasers, microscopic lenses and tiny mirrors to potentially pack 10 to 20 times more data onto hard disk drives.

More important, Seagate said the new mechanism, called Optically Assisted Winchester technology, will allow it to sidestep a huge engineering problem that looms over the \$50 billion data storage industry in the next decade. Disk drives are the main devices that store information permanently inside a com-(Reusers)

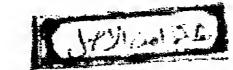
 NEW CD FORMAT? Philips Electronics NV and Sony Corp. plan to jointly license the new Super Audio CD format, which they said could succeed the current CD as the industry stan-

The hybrid disk contains two layers — a fully reflective layer in the conventional CD format, and a semi-reflective layer in a special high-density format, a statement said. The high-density layers offer 'ulma high-quality' storeo sound plus additional channels capable of producing multichannel sound

and carrying such additional data as text and graphics, it added. It includes protection against counter feiting and piracy, with visible and invisible watermarking on the disks. (AFX)

[William]

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Paul Oteilini, Intel vice president these thanks a helf of a lot easing Ease of the requires more one

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KAZAKHSTAN INVESTMENT SUMMIT

Almaty, June 4-5, 1998

If you are interested in Kazakhstan's wide array of investment opportunities, the International Herald Tribune's Kazakhstan Investment Summit will give you valuable insights and an inside edge.

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Continued on Page 16

Hong Kong
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New Budget
Market Rises 198
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Market Rises 198

Hong Kong Celebrates **New Budget**

Stock Market Rises 4% As Corporate Taxes Fall

By Philip Segal International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG - With the economy and stock market battered by the Asian financial crisis and public optimism at its lowest level since the economic crash of 1983, Hong Kong's cash-rich gov-ernment announced a balanced budget on Wednesday, featuring lower taxes and a hold-the-line stance on the territory's fixed-exchange rate.

Real estate and banking stocks - the lifeblood of Hong Kong's market — surged as the budget proposed a 3 percent cut in the tax on corporate profits and a new annual deduction worth 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$12,900) on residential mortgages. The measures are designed to revive the moribund real estate market, which has been pummeled by high interest rates. Allowances on personal taxes for most residents here will rise by 8 percent.

The hudget, the first since Britain handed the colony back to China last July 1, featured spending increases on housing and education.

In the past, China has criticized Hong Kong's financing of social programs, not wanting the colony's reserves drawn

The budget for the year beginning April 1 came as a new poll, released by the University of Hong Kong, said that 93 percent of respondents thought economic conditions had deteriorated since Hong Kong came under Chinese rule. The event that set off Asia's currency crisis, the devaluation of the Thai baht, came just a day after Hong Kong returned to

just a day after Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty on July 1. With its tax cuts, the budget was "better than expected," said Philip Niem, head of research at brokerage HSBC James Capel. The hudget helped the benchmark Hang Seng index rise 4.3

percent, to 10,670.95.
In the budget, Financial Secretary Donald Tsang sought to deal with an economy facing its worst financial crisis since 1983, when the Hong Kong dollar crashed, and banks failed amid a panic caused by the news that Britain had agreed to hand Hong Kong back to China in 1997. At the time, fixing the Hong Kong dollar to the U.S. dollar helped stabilize Hong Kong. Now however, this currency link has sent property prices plunging by as much as 40 percent in four months as the govemment has more than doubled interest

rates to protect the currency.

Mr. Tsang predicted Hong Kong's economy would grow by 3.5 percent this year once inflation was taken into account, which is rosier than the predictions of many private economists.

One of the most keenly anticipated parts of the budget speech, delivered hy Mr. Tsang in the Provisional Legislative Council, dealt with the fixed exchange rate. There had been widespread speculation that the government might introduce changes to the way the government defends the currency, but there were none in the budget

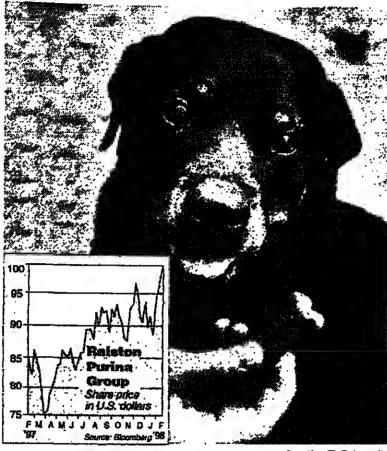
"The system has been working as designed," Mr. Tsang said. "Devaluation is not a way out. Everything we manufacture we make with imported products. Almost everything we consume we import. Devalue today, and tomorrow all those imports would cost

Mr. Tsang also drew attention to the fact that 85 percent of Hong Kong's trade is now in services, where the fixed exchange rate has made Hong Kong's wages, rents and property prices seem higher than elsewhere in Asia. To stay competitive, Hong Kong residents have been told that property prices will have to fail, although the government in-dicated last week that it will try to cushion the market from falling too far,

lest it set off a banking crisis.

The budget also calls for an increase of 52 percent in spending on housing, in an effort to meet the target of 85,000 new apartments per year from 1999. Half of Hong Kong's residents live in public housing.

WALL STREET WATCH



Some say splitting the company would be a tasty reward for investors.

Purina: Pulling Itself Out of the Doghouse

Analysts Say Battery Spin-Off Would Help

By Dana Canedy New York Times Service

EW YORK - Pet owners love Ralston Purina Co.'s canine and feline cuisine. So why do some investors consider its stock a dog? One problem is a lack of good information. The only high-profile member of Ralston Purina's team is the pesky pink bunny that promotes its Energizer batteries, the company's other business.

Management rarely talks to analysts, and Wall Street does not know what to make of quirky Ralston Purina, which has two chief executives to cover its disparate product lines.

Steve Gaibraith, who follows the

company for Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., said, "They run their investorrelations program like the Kremlin: A lot of stuff goes in, but not a lot of stuff comes out

William Stiritz, the longtime chief executive of the company, participated in only two conference calls with investors during his tenure, according to analysts. One was to announce his appointment in 1981, and the other was to announce his retirement last year. In the second one, Mr. Stiritz, who is still chairman, named two chief executives as his replacements, one for the pet-food business and one for the battery business. That could be a prelude to a split into two public companies that many analysts see as a potentially incrative move.

"These two individual divisions on their own might garner some higher valuation and investor interest said Steven Bregman, president of Horizon Asset Management and the author of the Spinoff Report, a newsletter. "Companies, even with mar-ket-leading businesses but otherwise unrelated, for some reason trade at a discount to where they would be if

Ralston Purina has been jettisoning smaller divisions for several years and next month will spin off its agricultural-products husiness. Excluding that unit, the company's \$4.5 billion in annual revenue is split about evenly between batteries and pet food.

Company officials did not return phone calls seeking comment.

T. Rowe Price, the mutual-fund company, has a big stake in Ralston Purina and supports its decision to focus on batteries and pet food while shedding everything else, from baby food to ski-resort operations.

Both husinesses are reasonably attractive in that one has a major leading position and the other has a No. 2 position," said Arthur Cecil, an analyst with T. Rowe Price. The pet-food husiness has benefited from premium products with high margins, while Energizer batteries have held their own against Duracell, the market leader.
Ralston Purina, whose stock rose

87.5 cents Wednesday to close at \$99.8125, has been trading at about 28 times its earnings for the past four quarters, a premium to the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, whi roughly 25 times earnings.

But Colgate-Palmolive Co., maker of Hill's Science Diet pet food, is trading at 32 times earnings, and Gillette Co., the parent of Duracell, is trading at 40 times earnings. Both Colgate-Palmolive and Gillette have a wide variety of products, making it difficult to conclude exactly what kind of premium Ralston Purina's es could fetch.

But a split would probably be wel-comed by shareholders. Over the past five years, Ralston Purina's stock has risen 127 percent, but that trails the 135 percent gain by the S&P 500.

Most recently, its stock has been buffeted by questions about whether Asia's troubles will depress profits. Ralston Purina has about half of the battery market in Asia, and its sales there account for about 12 percent of its revenue and 14 percent of its profit.

Ralston Purina warned investors in a recent regulatory filing that it expected weakened Asian markets to have a significant negative impact on future earnings. The company reported a 20 percent increase in earnings from continuing operations for the

quarter ended in December. The company also has shown signs of changing its insular culture. Executives have agreed to answer investor questions at a conference of New York consumer-stock analysts

"I think Ralston is transforming from the Bill Stiritz era," said John McMillins, who follows the company for Prudential Securities. though I get the feeling that Stiritz is still controlling the strings to some

Seoul Stocks Get a Lift From S&P

Ratings Concern's Upgrading Follows an IMF Vote of Confidence

NEW YORK - Standard & Poor's

Corp. upgraded Snuth Korea's foreign and local currency ratings Wednesday to reflect what it said was progress in implementing economic reform.

The move came a day after the International Monetary Fund gave Seoul a good report card on its reform efforts.

The votes of confidence helped lift the benchmark Kospi stock index 3.39 percent, to 487.73 points. But the country's currency still fell, as the dollar rose to 1,688 won from 1620.5 won the day before. Traders said concerns about Asia's financial crisis were keeping the outlook uncertain for the won. Indonesia's troubles have been a drag on the

'Korean markets - not the stock market — see the difficulties ahead, and

securities analyst in Seoul, "There is a realization that economic recovery is

going to take a long time to sort out." The International Monetary Fund gave South Korea good marks Tuesday in Washington at its first quarterly reriew of the country's progress under the IMF rescue program.

The Fund's board of directors voted

to immediately release another \$2 billion to South Korea, bringing the total aid loans released to Seoul to date by the IMF to \$15 billion.

The board expressed approval of steps Seoul bas taken so far to bolster its struggling economy, an IMF official said.

The IMF in December arranged a record \$58.35 billion bailout of South Korea. Of the total, the IMF pledged

that's why the won has been weak-ening." said Henry Morris, a veteran in loans to come from the Asia Development Bank, the World Bank and national lenders.

South Korea's economic growth in 1998 will be I percent, according to revised macroeconomic targets released in the quarterly review. (AFP. Reuters)

■ Seoul to Cut Civil Service Jobs

A South Korean comminee said the new government of President-elect Kirn Dae Jung planned to trim the civil service by nearly 11 percent over the next three

ears, Reuters reported from Seoul.
It said 17,612 jobs out of a total of 161,855 would go. The cuts would not include teachers and police personnel. Those to be dismissed included 90,501 public servants in main state offices and 71,354 postal and railroad workers.

It's the Olympics for Marketing, Too

Nagano Seeks to Make Its Commercialism More Tidy Than Atlanta's

By Ted Anthony

NAGANO, Japan - The bookstore

clerk was polite hut adamant. Yes, there was an American Express card logo on the front window. Yes, he usually accepted American Express. But Visa was an official Olympic sponsor, and trafficking in AmEx-charged books during these weeks simply would not do.

An extreme example, yes. But it speaks to the marketing philosophy behind the 1998 Winter Olympics.

The credo appears to be: No sponsor shall go unnoticed, no sponsor's logo narecognized, no sponsor's product un-sampled hy the human hordes who have

converged upon Nagano.
These Olympics have reflected the Japanese corporate aesthetic - all-encompassing but organized, no unlicensed renegades running rampant and a marketing philosophy pegged to huge corporations and some of the world's most recognizable logos.

"We want to be simple, hut effective," said Ko Yamaguchi, the National Olympic Organizing Committee chief

Effective, undonhtedly. But simple?

The reality of marketing, sponsorship and advertising in Nagano is an intricate hlend of corporate goals, Olympic ideals and, above most anything, a desire to avoid a repeat performance of the

1996 Games in Atlanta. On one hand, it is impossible to spend an hour in Nagano without being be-sieged by the hyproducts of \$212 million worth of sponsorship. It is commercialism writ humongous

Giant corporate signs adorn walls, huildings, huses. IBM's "Info '98" terminals connect journalists, athletes and spectators to crucial Olympic data, Coca-Cola is distributing free drinks all over town. McDonald's boasted this morning that it has served 75,000 Big Macs in the Olympic Village and the main press center alone.

Mizuno, Kodak and Kirin Beer have opened logo-adorned pavilions near the train station; Kodak is handing out 126,000 rolls of film to photojournalists. Amway and UPS are trying to make major international inroads.

Yet neither is this Atlanta. There, thickets of street vendors — hawking anything from \$3 bottles of water to purple cotton candy to an ahundance of fake Olympic merchandise — drew complaints of tawdriness and annoyed

fans, sponsors and officials all the way up to the International Olympic Committee chief, Juan Antonio Samaranch. It was a message Nagano apparently

"In Atlanta, you felt everyone was looking to make a dollar — from street vendors to city government to the or-ganizing committee," said David D'Alessandro, president of John Han-cock Mutual Life Insurance Co., an

Olympics "Worldwide Partner."
"Here, you feel these people are trying to be your hosts." D'Alessandro said, "Nagano is bending over backwards to be the anti-Ailanta."

The difference may simply be in

scope, though, because the Olympics, virtually everyone agrees, would be in real financial trouble without its major

Though few independent hawkers be-sides pin sellers and ticket scalpers are working Nagano's streets, 11 companies, including Coca-Cola, Visa, Mc-Donald's and IBM, are "Worldwide Partners" with markeling rights for one Summer Olympics and a Winter Olympics. Eight more, including Mizuno, Selko, Kirin, Toyota and Am-

See SPONSORS, Page 18

On Thursday, April 30, 1998, to mark the 50th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, the International Herald Tribune will publish a Special Report on

SRAEL at

Y THE TIME people or nations reach the age of 50, there is usually a sense of certainty about them; they have an image of themselves as mature, established, maybe even comfortable. But Israel is very much still a work in progress; a country of extraordinary achievements and unresolved problems; a tiny country that has nevertheless held the world's center stage for all of its turbulent childhood, adolescence and now adulthood.

To take the measure of Israel as it turns 50, the IHT has assembled a distin-

guished group of journalists, historians and politicians.

Glenn Frankel, the Pulitzer-Prize winning Washington Post correspondent and author of "Beyond the Promised Land," will provide an overview assessment of how much progress Israel has made in resolving the internal contradictions and external challenges that have confronted, and still confront, the Jewish state.

Tom Segev, the Israeli historian, journalist and author of the widely acclaimed history "The Seventh Million," will scan the record of these past 50 years, examining the creation and evolution of the country's identity, the role of Zionism, the conflicts and quests for peace with the Arabs within and outside Israel's borders. Zeev Chafets, the novelist and popular columnist for the Jerusalem Report,

will provide a glimpse into daily life in Israel today. Josef Joffe, the columnist and Editorial Page Editor of the Suddeutsche Zeitung,

and John Goshko, the United Nations correspondent of The Washington Post, will take a look at two of Israel's closest and most interesting relationships; one with Germany and the other with America's Jewish community. Joseph Fitchett, the IHT's political and security correspondent, will evaluate

the regional balance of power in the Middle East and how that might shape Israel's

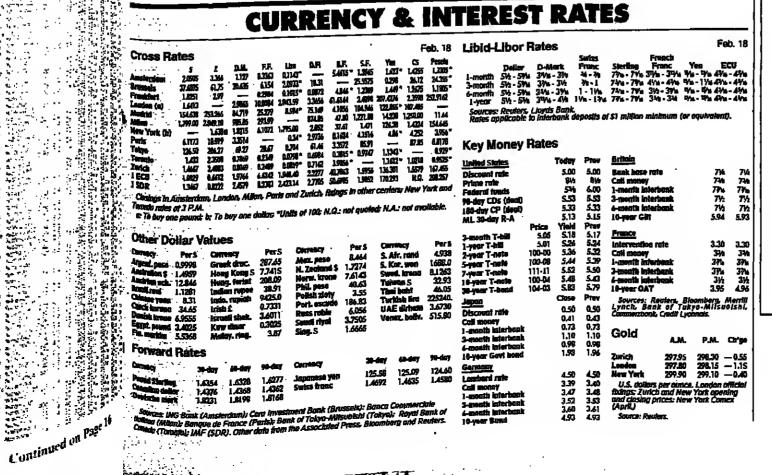
Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, the well-known Arab scholar and author, and president of the Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem, will write about life today and hopes for tomorrow for Palestinians in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Neal Sandler, an economic correspondent, will examine Israel's evolution from low-tech to high-technology center, looking at the state of its high-tech industries and their overall impact on the economy.

For more information about advertising in this Special Report, please contact Bill Mahder in Paris at (33-1) 41 43 93 78 or fax (33-1) 41 43 92 13 or e-mail: supplements(a;iht.com.



THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER www.iht.com



Very briefly:

- Limited Inc. will close 200 Limited, Lerner, Lane Bryant and Express stores through lease expirations during 1998 as it revamps its women's divisions. The retailer also plans to shed its 84 percent stake in Abercrombie & Fitch Co. through an exchange offer to shareholders.
- Softbank Corp. plans to sell shares of its Ziff-Davis Inc. publishing unit to the public in April, a move that could raise \$460 million that the Japanese computer-software distributor enuld use in service its debt.
- Campbell Soup Co. said it would sell its can-making business to Silgan Holdings Inc. for \$125 million, increase the target for its cost-cutting program to \$150 million from \$100 million, and take an unspecified charge in its third quarter as it tightened its focus oo its core soups, cookies and crackers businesses.
- Comptroller of the Currency Eugene Ludwig told U.S. bankers they needed to tighten their lending standards and resist pressure to quickly turn around funds flowing in from Asia.
- Netscape Communications Corp. said its Netcenter on-line service has surpassed 3 million members, making the company's Internet site more attractive to a prospective buyer.
- Dart Group Cnrp. bought back shares held by Ronald Haft, a member of the company's founding family, ended its dual-class common-stock structure and adopted a shareholder Reuters, Bloombere

Visa International's CEO to Retire Bloumbers News

SAN FRANCISCO - Visa International Inc. said Wednesday that its president and chief executive, Edmund Jensen, although the company said firstwould retire at the end of the year to focus on business ventures and investments, and to do volunteer work.

Mr. Jensen, 60, headed the largest bank-card group for four ers cut profit from strong sales of years, after serving as a board member. Mr. Jensen and Peter personal computers. Ellwood, the board chairman, will search for a replacement.

Best of Both Worlds: A Strong Economy, Low Inflation 16. Hoping

Steady Outlook for Profits Fuels Stocks

NEW YORK - Stocks scored \$28. The office-furniture maker another record Wednesday as in- sold 12.15 million shares for \$340.2 vestors bought shares of companies million. Steelcase, based in Grand

that would be expected to post consistent earnings growth even as the economy slowed.

dependable for earnings this year," said George Wild, director of research at Heartland Capital Management in Indianapolis.

The Dow Jones industrial average 8,451.06. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose 9.29 to 1,032.05, led by drugmakers and credit-card companies. The Nasdaq composite index rose 12.22 to 1,715.65.

U.S. bond prices fell as traders sought more evidence that Asia's slowdown was dragging on the U.S. economy, while companies prepared to sell about \$4 hillion in debt with borrowing costs near record lows.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was priced at 104 4/32, down 16/32, taking the yield up to 5.83 percent from 5.79 percent.

Despite the increase in bond yields, banks with credit-card businesses gained nn expectations that lower interest rates would ease concerns that consumers might fall behind in their payments. As rates fall, consumers are re-

financing their mortgages, and they can use the cash they get from the refinancing to keep current on their credit-card bills, CIBC Oppenheimer analyst Steven Eisman said. He raised his rating on Chase Manhattan Corp., which rose 1/8 to 1211/8. Citicorp fell 1/16 to 127 11/16. MBNA rose % to 35 1/16, and Household International climbed 314

Sears Roebuck, for one, is not seeing the benefits of lower rates. The retailer said its credit-card Lucent to Split 2-for-1 and Raise Its Dividend profit would decline 20 percent in Lucent to Split 2-for-1 and Raise Its Dividend 1998 because more customers were falling behind on payments. The business accounts for half of Sears' annual profit, Still, Sears shares rose

Microsoft gained 1/4 to 154%. Computer stocks have outperformed the market this year on expectations that profits will grow faster in that industry than for companies overall.

Hewlen-Packard rose 11/2 to 631/4 quarter net income rose less than expected as falling prices for print-

Steelcase climbed 51/4 to 331/4 shares outstanding. . . .

from an initial public offering at

U.S. STOCKS

"People are paying up for stocks Rapids, Michigan, nriginally expectatat you can feel are steady and ted to sell the shares for \$23 to \$26

Nike Class B shares rose 1/4 to 441/2 amid rumors that Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. was buying more stock in the sneaker and apparel rose 52.56 points to close at maker. Berkshire Hathaway already

Houston-based mobile-home retailer agreed to be purchased by Fleetwood Enterprises for \$162 million, nr \$10.25 a share, in cash or stock. Fleetwood, based in Riverside, California makes housing and recre-

ational vehicles.

Xenova rose after the Londonbased pharmaceutical group formed an alliance with Eli Lilly to develop a blood-clot-inhibiting drug suitable for chronic use. Xenova and Meta-Xen, its majority-owned U.S. unit, will each receive as much as \$35 million in license fees and research (Bloomberg, AP)

has about a 2 percent stake in Nike. Prices Fall as Home-Building Thrives HomeUSA climbed after the

WASHINGTON - A steep decrease in energy costs pushed prices at the wholesale level down 0.7 percent in January, the biggest nnemonth drop in more than four years, the Labor Department said Wednesday, while housing construction remained at a high level, indicating the U.S. economy is poised for more growth without inflation.

The producer-price index, which measures prices before they reach

the consumer, was held down by a 3.7 percent fall in energy prices, the

Flat Interest-Rate Outlook Hurts Dollar

Bloomberg News
NEW YORK — The dollar fell against other major currencies Wednesday on reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve Board would out raise U.S. interest rates

The yen rose against the dollar after a Japanese Finance Ministry official was quoted as saying Tokyo would not tolerate a weaker yen. In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar fell to

126.380 yen from 126.565 yen Tuesday and to 1.8215 Deutsche marks from 1.8253 DM as a gnvernment report showed a big drop in producer prices. Numbers like this show infla-

tion isn't a significant concern,' said James McGroarty, chief currency manager at Pntomac Babson "The Fed is on hold and isn't gning to change rates." The dollar also fell to 1,4710

Swiss francs from 1,4727 francs and to 6.1072 French francs from 6.1200

SECAUCUS, New Jersey - Lu-

cent Technologies Inc. said Wed-

nesday that its directors had ap-

proved a 2-for-1 stock split and that

it intended to raise its quarterly div-

widely beld stock in the United States

after AT&T Corp., is splitting for the first time since the phone-equipment maker's record-setting initial public offering, which raised \$3 billion in April 1996. The split will be paid

April 1 to holders of record March 6. As of Jan. 30, Lucent had 650 million

The Jiji Tsushin-Sha news agency

quoted an unidentified Japanese Finance Ministry official as saying the government would take action to

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

stop the yen from extending the weeklong slide that had weakened it by nearly 3 percent.

The remark fanned concern that finance ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations kets, "with the U.S. economy still might consider efforts to bolster the going strong, while Germany isn't yen at their weekend meeting in London.

In Japan, growing doubts that a government package of economic measures to be released Friday would lift the country ont of a sevenyear slump weighed on the yen.

"The arguments are right that Japan won't do enough soon enough," favors the dollar and helped lift it said Gerard Lyons, chief economist percent against the mark last year.

Lucent also formed a \$100 mil-

semiconductors and communica-

tions software. They are expected to

complement research at Lucent's

Lucent has rewarded investors

with seven quarters of record rev-

enne and profit that has topped ex-

pectations since its April 1996 spin-

off. It is betting that the new fund

Bell Laboratories division.

new technologies, including wire- man Wednesday.

fore the split.

Lucent's stock, the second most less equipment, data networking,

francs. The pound rose to \$1.6380 at DKB International. "But I from \$1.6330. wouldn't push the dollar higher ahead of the G-7.

Meanwhile, traders said they expected to continue favoring the U.S. currency over the mark in coming weeks amid a belief that German lending rates are on hold. The Bundesbank encouraged that perception, saying in a monthly report that exports had slowed and inflation was in check.

"The dollar is well underpinned," said Jeremy Stretch of Nat West Marperforming well, and export growth isn't expected to feed through into the domestic economy.

The Bundesbank said it saw on risk of inflation or deflation in the German economy. Steady Bundesbank interest rates would maintain the gap between U.S. and German rates that favors the dollar and helped lift it 17

portunities," said Richard McGinn,

the company's chief executive, who

Lucent's stock rose \$5.125 to

close at \$97.6875. The company

Mr. Schacht, who was hired by

AT&T to lead Lucent after the spin-

off, will be chairman of the invest-

ment fund. John Hanley, Lucent's

went public at \$27 a share.

After April 1, Lucent will pay will ensure its place on the cutting

quarterly dividends of 4 cents a edge of the industry. "Lucent has

share, compared with 7.5 cents be- been targeting the hottest growth op-

lion venture-capital fund to invest in succeeded Henry Schacbt as chair-

biggest drop since a 5 percent de-cline in February 1991, at the end of

the Gulf War. Gulf War.
The best of all possible worlds continues to get better," said Robert Dederick, an economic consultant

with Northern Trust Co in Chicasa

We remain with an economy that both is strong and inflation free." The figures bolstered the belief held by many analysts that the Federal Reserve Board would not raise interest rates soon.

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Despite the fact that a robust economy has pushed unemploy ment to the lowest levels since it early 1970s, inflation measured by the producer-price index and the more closely watched consume price index has been well behaved

In a second report, the Commerc Department said that construction of new homes and apartments remained at an annual rate of 1.5 million units in January. That we down 0.3 percent from the previous month, but December's performance had been revised sharply higher in-stead of a decline of 0.8 percent, the government said that construction of new homes and apartments actually arose I percent in December.

Cynthia Latta, an economist at DRI-McGraw Hill, said she thought the Fed's next move would be to cut rates in late summer to counteract the impact of the Asian crisis on the U.S. economy. "That assumes we will have a slowdown in economic activity between now and then, Ms. Latta said. "At this point, at hasn't happened."

For all of 1997, wholesale prices fell 1.2 percent, and consumer prices rose just 1.7 percent. Many ecopomists predict inflationary pressures will remain moderate this year, as the U.S. economy is flooded with Asian imports made cheaper by steep declines in Asian currencies.

The 0.7 percent decline in wholesale prices in January was the biggest decrease since a 1 percent fall in August of 1993, a dip that occurred \$ == because of falling tobacco prices. at

The 3.7 percent decline in energy prices was the biggest drop in a fourmonth string of energy declines. Analysts have noted that the energy prices declines have continued ever with growing worries of a possible

and food categories, the so-called core rate of inflation fell 0.1 percent, matching the December de-cline. For all of 1997, core prices at the wholesale level were up 0.1 percent, their best showing on re-(AP, Bloomberg)

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U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

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(Bloomberg, Reuters)

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Low Inflation

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EUROPE

U.K. Hoping to Build a Bridge for the G-7

By Tom Buerkle International Herald Tribuna

LONDON - International discussions about employment tend to degenerate quickly into shouting matches between British-American proponents of labor-market deis regulation and continental Euro-

But Britain's enancement of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, hopes bridge the divide this weekend when he is host to a Group of Seven meeting of finance and labor ministers in London. Russia will join in on the talks between the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, France, Canada and Japan.

Mr. Brown's willingness to acknowledge the darker side of Britain's employment record, as well as p his ambitious plans to help the coune try's long-term unemployed and working poor, could provide common ground for the opposing policy Bank of England on Wednesday by downturn will reduce European to work.

1s FRANKFURT - Germany's Ifo

Institute for Economic Research

said Wednesday that its main busi-

wess climate barometer fell in Janu-

ary, and analysts said the drop re-

flected continued mild concern

Asia would increasingly dampen

export sales, German exports would

continue to be the main engine of

growth for the economy in the next

thousands of jobs in the final quarter

nesday showed, making it one of the

best performers in Europe at battling

More than 53,000 people found

jobs in the fourth quarter of 1997,

sharply higher than analysts' expec-

tations of just 10,300. The jobless

rate as measured by the National

Statistics Office's population survey

fell to 20.32 percent, from 20.55

"That was a better number than

percent in the previous quarter.

Afthough economic turmoil in

about the crisis in Asia.

and the ball ball last year, statistics released Wed-

high unemployment.

camps. In an interview in his Treas- the government. Mr. George has growth rates by as much as half a benefits of labor-market deregulation and "the old European com-

placency" loward unemployment. Governments, he said, need to embark on a broad array of reforms, including improved educaget the skills needed in today's job market and an overhaul of tax and

rather than welfare. look at the long-term change in the

culture of your society.' Among other points in the interview, Mr. Brown dismissed suggestions of serious differences on European monetary union between himself and Eddie George, who was reappointed as governor of the

the DIW economics institute, said.

the development of domestic de-

mand in coming months," the DIW

said. "Risks might arise from the

Asian crisis though."

Meanwhile, the West German

business climate index stood at 99.3

in January, down from 99.6 in

December and well below expec-tations of 99.5. Forecasts had ranged

Olaf Weeken, economist at IDEA

we were expecting," said Carmen

Lynch & Co. in Madrid. She added

that Spain was "the country that

created the most employment in

the number of new jobs for the year

to 371,000 - about half the new

jobs the European Union as a whole

is expected to have created in 1997,

Still, Spain's jobless rate remains

double the European average and is only expected to sink slightly below just over 120 billion DM.

The fourth quarter total brought

from 99.0 to 100,4,

Europe last year,

Spanish officials said.

20 percent this year.

few months, another report, from in London, said the figures con-

MADRID - Spain created tens of Hernansanz, an economist at Merrill

Spain: Europe's Biggest Job Creator

The export dynamic will exceed

ury office, Mr. Brown said he was recently expressed major concerns percentage point this year. That is determined to reject both "Anglo-Saxon triumphalism" about the euro, but Mr. Brown insisted tuin's long-term growth potential ish entry on five economic tests to be applied around 2002.

ministers meet Saturday to discuss tion and training to help people to the current situation in Asia, he rise," said Bill Callaghan, chief welfare benefits to encourage work policy to prevent future crises.

Some of the problems we have Success will not come quickly or seen over the past few months were for the long term and would cheaply, he said: "You've got to could have been avoided if we had the kind of transparency we are

proposing." he said. The Asian crisis threatens to overshadow the employment discussions, both in terms of ministerial and media attention and in the real world.

firmed the recent picture of twinges

of concern in the German economy

about the impact of the Asian crisis

on exports, although only limited

effects are being felt so far.
"The index is worth watching, though, in terms of the current Asian

crisis. We have seen some improve-

ment in domestic orders but whether

this can compensate for falling for-

eign orders is unclear," he added.

Scparately, the Federal Statistics Office said Wednesday that Ger-

many's trade surplus expanded to 12.3 billion Deutsche marks (\$6.74

billion) in December from a surplus

in December, up 17.2 percent from

the level a year ago of 66 billion

DM. Imports rose 10.2 percent to

65.1 billion DM from the December

The Bundesbank said Wednesday

that Germany's public-sector deficit

narrowed markedly in 1997 as sav-

ings offset weak tax revenues, high

ucemployment and the abolition of

The combined deficit of central

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

government, federal states and mu-

nicipalities fell by about 20 billion

DM in 1997 from its 1996 level of

Exports stood at 77.4 billion DM

of 7 billion DM a year earlier.

1996 level of 59 billion DM.

that he endorsed the government's that Mr. Brown hopes to achieve policy of basing a decision on Brit- with his labor and welfare reforms.

The Asian effect "will mean the economy will be growing below He also said that, when finance productive potential, and that will mean unemployment will start to would seek to develop proposals economist of the Trades Union for greater openness in economic Congress, the voice of Britain's organized labor.

Still, Mr. Brown said his reforms "modernize the welfare state around the work ethic." His concern is that 20 percent of Britain's households, comprising more than 7 million people, do not have an adult with a job.

His policy includes a training-incentive program to get 250,000 Economists estimate that Asia's of the long-term unemployed back

France Opens Bids for Insurer

Bloomberg News

PARIS - The government invited bids Wednesday for Groupe des Assurances Nationales SA, launching the sale of one of France's last state

assets in the financial industry. The Finance Ministry, which set a deadline for bids of May 7. said it would sell 87.1 percent of the company by the end of June, the deadline ser by the European Union last year in return for approval of a rescue package for GAN. France's fifth-largest insurer. The rest will be offered to GAN employees and management, the

ministry said. The sale comes amid a flurry of mergers and acquisitions in the European financial industry ahead of the planned introduction next year of the euro, the EU's common currency.

GAN had a loss of 5.6 billinn francs (\$920 million) in 1996, its third year of losses. In July, the EU authorized the state to give GAN aid of 24 billion francs in return for selling it.

Failure to Win **EU Approval Costs Samsung**

Compiles to One Suif From Dispatches

BRUSSELS - The European Commission fined Samsung Electronics Co. 33,000 European currency units (\$35,800) for failing to consult it before buying another

The fine, the first time the executive body of the European Union has punished a company for failing to submir its plans for clearance in due time, was seen as a warning to companies not to ignore the EU's fair compention rules.

The penalty is relatively low because the South Korean company's infringement of EU laws appeared to be unintentional and Samsung had since cooperated with EU authorities, the commission said.

"Samsung is an important company with significant activities in Europe and must be considered to be aware of EU merger control rules,"

Under EU rules, the body reviews all major mergers and takeovers that affect EU markets. It can veto or order changes in those it determines would unfairly distort competition.

Samsung took control of AST Research Inc. of California in early 1996 but did not request EU approval until April 1997.

Under EU rules, a company can be fined from 1,000 Ecus to 50,000 Ecus if it fails to request approval within one week of the conclusion or announcement of a merger or acquisition. The commission can also impose a penalty of up to 10 percent of worldwide revenue when a deal is implemented without its prior consent. (Reuters, AP)

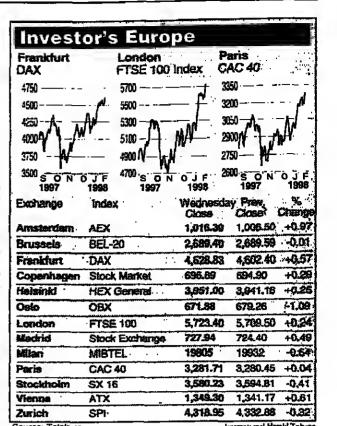
■ Volve Buys Samsung Unit

Volvo AB said Wednesday that its construction division bad agreed to buy Samsung Heavy Industries Bloomberg News reported from Gothenburg, Sweden. Included in the acquisition is the

Korean distribution operation and a plant in Changwon. The unit, which makes excavat-

ors, earthmovers and cranes, had sales of \$700 million last year.

Samsung Group, the secondlargest conglomerate in South Korea, with 80 companies at the end of 1997, said last month that it would shed all its businesses outside three core activities, including semiconductors.



Very briefly:

· Volvo AB's fourth-quarter profit fell 39 percent, to 1.11 billion Swedish kronor (\$136.9 million), as tax charges tripled. Sales rose 24 percent, to 52.68 billion kronor. The carmaker, which has cash reserves of 19.10 billion kronor, quelled speculation it might give some of that back to sharebolders by saying it needed to be prepared for potential acquisitions.

· Mediaset SpA, the Italian media company controlled by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, is discussing an alliance with News Corp. of Australia as part of a drive to sell more television programs abroad and expand into satellite broadcasting and pay-TV.

 Deutsche Bank AG's 1997 net profit dropped 57 percent, to 956 million Deutsche marks (\$526 million) from 2.20 billion DM, as the bank set aside 4 billion DM to cover its exposure to the Asian financial crisis and to pay for a three-year re-organization during which the bank plans to shed 9,000 jobs.

· Usinor SA, France's largest steelmaker, said net profit rose 38 percent last year, to 2.06 billion francs (\$337.9 million). Sales rose just 1 percent, to 72 billion francs, but the company Co.'s construction equipment busi-ness for an undisclosed sum, company expects this year's first-balf profit to show a 'significant" increase.

> Groupe Bull, the French computer and software company, said second-half profit fell 45 percent, to 539 million francs, as it took a charge of 129 million francs to create a Europewide sales force and set aside money to create a software division based in the United States. The company said it sooo would announce the hiring of an American as head of its software division.

· Britain's Audit Commission conducted a survey indicating that computer fraud and abuse was on the increase in the country, with 45 percent of public- and private-sector organizations polled saying they had suffered from some form of interference with their computer systems, compared with 36 percent three years ago. Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP

184.20

Prices as at 3.00 P.M. New York time

year to date

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The Trib Index



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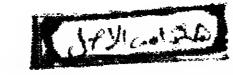
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Positioning Itself for Recovery in Region

SINGAPORE — Singapore adopted a series of financial changes Wednesday, including allowing more of its surplus funds to be placed in private hands, to try to reposition itself as a financial center in advance of the region's recovery

from its currency turmoil. The changes, presented by Lee Hsien Loong, a deputy prime minister, would also free all stock-brokerage rates within three years, deregulate the fledgling unit-trust industry and speed approval pro-

letting the public "decide for themwhat risks to accept," the govern-ment said. Among the measures was a move to encourage governmentlinked corporations and statutory boards to borrow from Singapore's debt market, where there are no longdated corporate bonds at present.

'It is not our intention to turn the financial sector upside down overnight," Mr. Lee said, but be of Switzerland in Singapore. said Singapore was laying a frame-

nomic problems caused by the cur-

rency crisis dissipate.

We are doing this for the medium and long term," he said, insisting that Singapore would not compromise its standards of integrity and supervision in the deregulation process.

He said the government wanted to improve the financial sector within the existing structure. "Yon have a working system, and

yon want to improve it," he said. 'You can't liberalize overnight, hut we can do it over time."

cedures for share offerings.

Analysts said the changes, nearly all adopted from recommendations by a top private-sector advisory panselves what they want to invest in and el, had largely been expected and were part of Singapore's effort to expand its range of financial products to keep pace with those offered by competitors such as Hong Kong.

'Ît's a positive development and geared for the long term, but we had expected the government to adopt these reforms," said John Doyle, financial analyst with Union Bank

Timothy Wong, head of research



HELLO, MOM! - A man using a Telstra Corp. pay phone in Sydney. Telstra's first-half profit soared to 1.61 billion Australian dollars (\$1.08 billion) from 742 million dollars.

right direction. But the near-term servative investment policy. concern is still the regional crisis and its potential impact on corporate

Singapore is the least affected by the sharp erosion in the value of egional currencies against the U.S. dollar, which has slowed economic growth and caused neighboring nations to make changes in their eco-

nomic and financial systems. The prosperous city-state has billions of dollars in public-sector funds, including a huge pension system, work for regional husiness, which is at Vickers Ballas, said: "The news available for investment, but the govexpected to pick up again after eco- is significant in that it is a step in the ernment has so far adopted a con-

Public-sector funds account for 5

percent, or 6.5 billion Singapore dollars (\$3.93 billion), of the 125 billion dollars of funds managed out of Singapore.

The advisory panel proposed that this be raised to 20 percent, but Mr. Lee said the ceiling was still being worked out. He also said that as part of reforms, Singaporeans should be able to use their savings in the staterun Central Provident Fund to buy securities listed on the stock exchange that are denominated in foreign currencies. (AFP. Reuters)

Sales Gains Abroad Lift Honda Profit

TOKYO - Honda Motor Co. said Wednesday that its group profit for the three months to December rose 5.3 percent to a quarterly record and said it expected another record performance for its full year ending in March, helped by strong sales in North America.

Honda said group net profit, or net profit at Honda and its units, rose to 65.20 billion yen (\$515 million) in the October-December period as sales in North America made up for a slump at home and in the rest of Asia. Group sales rose 16.6 percent to 1,55 trillion yen in the period, also a quarterly record.

On a pretax basis, Honda's group profit in the October-December quarter was 26 percent higher than a year earlier, as Honda had to make a hefty corporate tax payment for the last husiness year, when its profit more than tripled.

"The good result was primarily due to solid sales in the North American market," a Honda spokesman said. "We are quite optimistic about achieving our full-year earnings

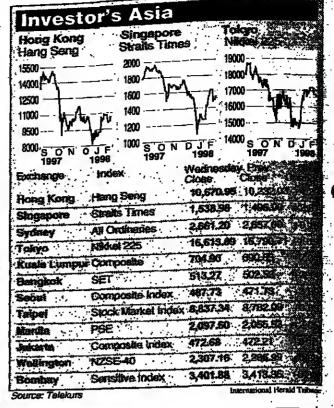
forecasts. In November, Honda predicted its full-year group net profit would be 250 billion yen, surpassing its record annual profit of 221.17 billion ven the previous year.

Honda said its Accord model had good sales in North America after new models were introduced in September. The yen's weakness, coupled with continued cost-cutting, contributed to Honda's earnings in the third quarter hy making its products more competitive overseas.

The Honda spokesman shrugged off the possibility of any major damage to earnings from Asia's currency problems, which have already forced it to curb production in the region. "The Asian region accounted for only 2 percent to 3 percent of our total annual group sales," he said. "Given the limited scale, do not ex-

pect any major impact from this." Takaki Nakanishi, an analyst at Merrill Lynch in Tokyo, said the North American vehicle market in general could suffer a slowdown in the next business year, with South Korean and some U.S. carmakers possibly ready to increase price competition in the market.

The earnings announcement came after the close of trading on the Tokyo stock market. Honda shares, regarded as a core blue-chip issue. closed at 4,530 yea, down 70.



Very briefly:

• Thailand's finance minister, Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda, said the government would unveil a three-year plan Tuesday to strengthen the country's banking and financial sector that would require financial institutions to adopt stricter reserve provisions and accounting practices.

 Australian dockworkers in Melbourne protesting the start. up of a nonunion stevedoring company returned to work as the maritime union planned its next move in the dispute.

• Ford Motor Co. applied to set up a 6.18 billion peso (\$153.4) car-assembly plant in the Philippines, a senior trade

 Australian Consolidated Press, Kerry Packer's magazine unit, raised its holding in Vietnam Investment Review Ltd., publisher of the country's only foreign-owned English-language weekly newspaper, to 100 percent from 70 percent. Sources said the transaction involved a cancellation of debt and no cash.

 Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd.'s finance company, EON
 Finance Bhd., agreed to merge with Gadek Capital Bhd. in Malaysia's third finance-company merger in less than two

• South Korean prosecutors said the country's companies could lose 1.25 trillion won (\$771.4 million) in sales because of the illegal transfer of semiconductor technology to a Taiwanese company, Nan Ya Technology Corp.

 Daewoo Motor Corp. upheld its pledge to invest \$1.5 billion in Poland by 2001 despite economic problems in South Korea, a senior executive at the automaker's flagship Polish

• Fletcher Challenge Ltd., a New Zealand-based industrial, forestry and energy company, reported a 53.5 percent increase in its second-half profit, to 413 million New Zealand dollars (\$240.9 million).

• GE Capital Services plans to set up a joint venture with Toho Mutual Life Insurance Co. April 1 to sell life-insurance products in Japan.

Change of Outlook at Taiwan Bank

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK - While Taiwan's central hank is issuing assurances policy in its transition to a new govemor, economists and bankers said Wednesday that the prime candidates to lead the institution were likely to speed opening of the is-

land's economy. The previous governor, Sbeu Yuan-dong, whose conservative year low of 0.90 percent, policies were credited with helping While analysts say econo stabilize Taiwan through Asia's economic turmoil, was killed Mon-

day in a plane crash at Taipei's Chiang Kai-sbek Airport.
Taiwan's economy has resisted the collapse that has beset other countries in the region. On Wednesday, the government released quarterly growth statistics that out-stripped all estimates.

New Chief Expected To Open Economy

that there will be a continuity of percent in the fourth quarter of 1997 Wei Duan, said the quarterly gain, the highest since a reading of 7.55 percent in 1991, came as consumer-price inflation for the year hit a 10-

> While analysts say economic policy will not change overnight, virtually all of the candidates likely to succeed Mr. Sheu as central bank governor are likely to pick up the pace of reform.

Mike Chang, senior vice president and general manager of international banking at Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, said: "Almost all the possible governors have stud- relatively closed to foreigners. ied abroad, and they all have very The Directorate General of international outlooks. They are clude lifting the 30 percent ceiling Budget, Accounting and Statistics also all much younger than Mr. on foreign ownership of listed

Oil & Money

conference will be

held on November 17-18

active in the post and with liber-alization."

While the new bank governor will be announced next week, people in Taiwan's financial community have narrowed down the list to a handful compared with a year earlier, pushing full-year growth in 1997 to 6.81 percent. The chlef of the directorate, Other possible candidates to

serve as governor until 2000, when the current term runs out, include the central hank's deputy and acting governor, Patrick Liang; the chairman of the Bank of Taiwan, Lo Chi-Tang; a minister without portfolio, Shirley Kuo, and the chairman of International Commercial Bank, Perng Fai-nan.

Despite being one of the world's top trading nations, Taiwan has a currency that cannot be freely exchanged, and its economy remains Liberalization moves could in-



Paul Chiu, a reformist, is a top candidate as central bank head.

foreign commercial banks and securities companies, and allowing foreigners to invest more freely in bonds and commercial paper.
"Looming over all issues about

liberalization is, of course, inter-nationalizing the currency," said Francis Yu, director of SBC Warburg Dillon Read in Taiwan. "But I reported that the economy grew 7.08 Sheu, so they will perhaps be more companies, issning more licenses to don't see any rush to change that."

SPONSORS: Corporate Goals vs. Olympic Ideals in Nagano

Continued from Page 13

way Japan, are "Gold Sponsors," giving them rights in Japan for the Nagano games only - and use of the Olympic rings in their advertising.

'Corporate sponsors help make the Olympics accessible to the world," said Scott McCunc, director of worldwide sports for Coca-Cola, which began Olympic sponsorship in 1928 hy sending the U.S. team to Amsterdam with

A 1996 poll by The Associated Press, conducted just as the Atlanta Olympics began, found that 66 percent of Americans felt commercial participation was necessary; just 29 percent thought the Olympics had become too commercial. And 86 percent said a company's spon-sorship has no bearing on their buying

This year, though, has seen some interesting juxtapositions that are unlike Olympics past. At the opening ceremony, Samaranch wore a Mizuno coat in a forum that is traditionally logo-free. And CBS Sports' decision to wear jackets emblazoned with Nike's emblem had some Olympics watchers crying uneth-

"That told me that everything and everyone is for sale," said Susan Hofacre, head of the sports administration department at Robert Morris College in

"I've gotten used to seeing it all over athletes," she said. "I'm used to skiers bolding their skis so you can see the 'Rossignol.' But when I see sports announcers and the head of the IOC doing that, it becomes jarring.

letes number in the thousands and its logo no longer requires the accompa-nying word "Nike" to be recognized. "I'm not depressed at being a uhi-quitous symbol." said Vizhier Corpuz

Mooney, a Nike spokeswoman. "Yes, the things that we do as a sports company are becoming news themselves. But we're just doing what we do." Ultimately, the question is this: Does

what corporations add to an Olympics outweigh concerns about moneymaking ventures being so crucial to what, theoretically, is supposed to be a final bastion of sport for sport's sake?

"There are no total tyrants and no totally good people in this," said John Lucas, a Penn State professor emeritus who has been researching the Olympics for 35 years. "But as long as we are Though not an Olympic sponsor, Nike alive, it is impossible to exclude the is a major presence in Nagano. Its ath-

ITALY: Prodi Begins to Roll Out a Series of Free-Market Reforms

Continued from Page 1

with plans to introduce more disclosure requirements and improved corporate governance rules for publicly quoted companies on the Milan bourse, and the Consoh stock market regulatory authority will strengthen its protection of small investors.

What is surprising about the new drive toward deregulation is that while there have been some complaints from trade unions and opposition leaders, the Prodi deregulation plan, especially the package concerning the state bureaucracy. has sparked relatively little in the way of

Silvio Berlusconi, leader of the centerright opposition, on Wednesday welcomed the changes to the stock market. hut criticized the government's approach on bureaucracy and retailing as "a shift from a dirigiste vision of the economy to a wildly free-market approach." Mr. Berlusconi said be agreed "with

the principle of introducing private-sector concepts in the public sector." But Mr. Berlusconi contended in an interview that "the way the government is moving seems to us a way of getting rid of those senior bureaucrats who are not politically in line with the government, and putting their own people in, as in a regime."

Mr. Prodi and other government of-

ficials deny vociferously that there is any attempt to pack the bureaucracy with political nominees. According to Franco Bassanini, the minister responsible for shaking up the bureancracy, "We do not plan to have thousands of political appointees, as is the case in Washington Innocenzo Cipolletta, director-generwhen a new administration takes office. but we do want to be able to change senior officials on the basis of merit and

also protested about the rules affecting here are in a tacit nonaggression pact public sector employees, but the response from Italy's three official trade unions -fairly muted, even cooperative.

public-sector employees, in 1995, a finance minister lost his joh and militant unions took to the streets, threatening social cohesion.

In Germany, meanwhile, attempts to liberalize the retail sector have produced limited results, while repeated efforts to liberalize the state bureaucracy have stalled in Parliament.

"The opposition to reforms in Italy is less visible than elsewhere in Europe." said Ken Wattret, an economist at Parihas in London, "because a series of Italian governments have had to tackle longer term economic reforms anyway. including radical fiscal policies, in order to qualify for the single currency. And so a culture of reform has been established and it is a climate more conducive to sweeping reform than in other countries such as France and Germany."

In Frankfurt, Norbert Walter, chief economist at Deutsche Bank, said the reason Mr. Prodi has been able to launch the deregulation measures is that 'this is a consensus society, which can be led to the middle only by the center-left."
"If Helmut Kohl did this in Ger-

many," said Mr. Walter, "he would be accused of representing rich people and big business, but in Italy the center-left can argue that globalization doesn't leave them any alternative and they can get away with it."
Mr. Walter said the same type of

liberalization moves had been pushed

al of Confindustria, the Italian employers' federation, agreed, saying that ' Italy it has been the left and the trade unions that have traditionally engaged in Some wildcar union movements have street protests, but the left and the unions with the government.

Mr. Cipolletta also stressed that the the CGIL, CISL and UIL — has been Prodi government had softened the political impact of its measures by lim-By contrast, the last time anyone in iting the extent of pension reform and by

France spoke of curhing the privileges of promising to introduce legislation requiring the introduction of a 35-hour

working week.
"The reforms of retailing, the stock market and the hureaucracy are good reforms, and they go in the right di-rection, but they do not really hit the pocketbook interests of most voters on the center-left," be said.

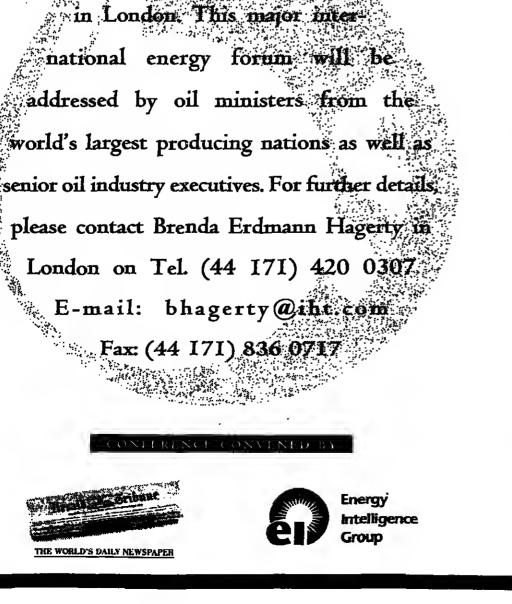
Opposition to retailing deregulation, for example, has come from Sergio Bille, head of the Confcommercio traders' and retailers' association, whose members tend to favor the center-right more than the governing center-left co-alition. Mr. Bille has argued that the abolition of licenses for retailers that open shops of up to 300 square meters will mean financial hardship for shop owners who traditionally pay high prices for licenses and consider these to be an asset that can be sold along with the rest of their business.

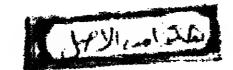
Mr. Berlnsconi suggested a more gradual approach for the reform of re-tailing, saying that "to eliminate all li-censes immediately will damage family businesses and cause anarchy." The opposition leader also said the retail sector reforms would "hit a group of people who are not part of the Prodi government's electorate."

Mr. Berlusconi also criticized the government's plan to introduce legislation mandating a 35-hour working week, calling it 'economic suicide' and noting that the only reason the plan exists is because it was the price Mr. Prodi had to pay during a political crisis last October in order to avoid losing the parliamentary support of the far-left Re-

founded Communist Party. Mr. Prodi instead insisted that an accord on the legislation would soon be reached between the government, trade unions, the business community, and the Refounded Communists.

We have not yet found the right accord, but we will achieve this without damaging social cohesion," he said The government wants to talk to all social parties."







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WORLD ROUNDUP

Rangers Fire Coach

who took the New York Rangers to the National Hockey League's Conference finals last season, was fired Wednesday as coach.

No successor was chosen, hnt separate reports suggested that he would be replaced either by John Muckler, former coach at Edmonton, or E.J. McGuire, coach of the team's American Hockey League affiliate in Hartford, Connecticut.

Campbell, 45, had a 118-108-43 record in three and a half seasons. But this season the team, with a payroll of \$44 million, highest in NHL history, is 17-24-16. (AP)

Veterans Beat League

BASEBALL A group of 384 former players was awarded \$58,000 and interest for royalties owed hy major league baseball for the use of their pictures and names. The players sued major league baseball, and its marketing arm, in Alameda County Superior Court for breach over payments for sev-eral products, including trading cards. (AP)

Go Ahead for Belgian GP

FORMULA ONE The International Automobile Federation (FIA) has given the green light to Spa-Francorchamps to stage the 1998 Bel-gian Grand Prix, the Walloon regional government said Wednes-day. The FIA had threatened to cancel the race, scheduled for Aug. 30, after the Belgian government decided I to ban all tobacco advertising and sponsorship from Jan.

Test Fizzles Out

CRICKET The first test between South Africa and Pakistan in Johannesburg was abandooed Wednesday because of bad light and lack of enthusiasm — there was little chance of any result other than a draw. After the game both teams were fined for the slow rate at which they bowled their overs.

Rashid Lanf, the Pakistan captain, said his team had debated returning home because of persistent speculation over the mugging of two players, Mohammad Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq. The police have been investigating claims the two players were seen at a Johannesburg night club at the time of the alleged attack.

Royle Hired To Retool Manchester **City Club**

Joe Royle, former manager of both the Oldham and Everton soccer clubs, took over at Manchester City on Wed-oesday after Frank Clark was dis-

Royle, 47, signed a two-and-a-half-year deal with City, which has woo the English championship twice but is now second-from-last in the first division. That is the lowest position in the club's history and 43 places below its local rival, Manchester Uoited. City has 15 more matches this season, and if it remains in the bottom three places of the first division it will be relegated to the second division.

"I have oo qualms or worries about the situation," Royle said. "We have problems, but they are not unsolv-

Royle played for City from 1974 to 1980. He left as Evertoo's manager in March 1997. "City means a lot to me,"

■ Greeks Go Easy on a Colleague

Greek lawmakers agree that fan violence at soccer matches is unforgivable unless the alleged hooligan is one of their own, The Associated Press reported from Athens.

Igooring an appeal by a public prosecutor, a strong majority of the 300-member Greek Parliament voted not to strip a fellow deputy, Yiannis Tsaklidis, of his immunity from prosecution after. he was accused of beating a soccer referee following a first-division game.

In a vote late Tuesday, 187 of 254 deputies present opposed allowing Tsaklidis's prosecution, despite the lawmaker's admission that he threatened the referee in January 1997; The decisioo was published Wednes-

Tsaklidis allegedly beat the referee at a match between Kavalla, the team he supports, and visiting Olympiakos Pir-

He rusbed onto the field after fans complained that the referee was favoring Olympiakos, which won the match,

Tsaklidis denied hitting the referee, but admitted to Parliament that be

threatened the man with violence.. "I told him I could beat him up if I wanted because I'm a deputy and I have immunity," Tsaklidis said.



Steffi Graf hitting a backhand in her victory Wednesday over Andrea Glass at the Faber Grand Prix in Hannover,

A Bit Rusty, But Same Old Steffi

Graf Rolls in First Singles Match Since Injury Forced 8-Month Layoff

HANNOVER, Germany - Steffi Graf rolled to an easy two-set victory Wednesday in her first singles match in

more than eight months. Displaying no signs of the knee injury that sidelined her for so long, Graf beat a fellow German, Andrea Glass, 6-4, 6in a secood-round match at the \$450,000 Faber Grand Prix.

"I'm not bappy with everything today; but I clearly have the feeling I can make it," said Graf, whose injuries forced her to delay ber comeback five times and led to speculation she would never return.

Graf, who held the top ranking for a record 374 weeks, had already tested the knee in a doubles victory Monday, play-ing competitively for the first time since a loss to Amanda Coetzer at the French

Open on June 3.
On Wednesday, Graf sometimes struggled with her backhand and committed . numerous - unforced errors against Glass, who is ranked 95th in the world. At the start of the second set, Graf threw ber racket in frustratioo.

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said. But she still won in 64 minutes as-4,000 spectators stomped their feet and cheered wildly after match point.

Graf, 28, will face a tougher opponent in her quarterfinal match Thursday or Friday, playing either Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, ranked No. 24 in the world, or Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, ranked No. 29.

"I don't really care who I play." Graf

said. "I'm just happy to be back. I've worked really hard for this."
The seven-time Wimbledoo champioo had her left leg surgically repaired for fractured cartilage and a ruptured patella shortly after losing to Coetzer, then underwent intensive therapy. Until rising Moroccan star, Hicham Arazi, 7-two months ago, Graf said she wasn't 6, 3-6, 6-3, after a tense duel.

In Graf's absence, Martina Hingis has taken over the No. I ranking. But Graf, who has won 21 Grand Slam titles, said Monday that she was still ambi-"I know I can play better - I made a tious. "If I didn't have that ambition, I

lot more errors than in practice," she shouldn't have come back." Graf said. Despite letting a 5-2 lead slip away in the first set, as ber backhand errors mounted, Graf also moved easily around the court and flashed the powerful forehand that once dominated wom-

> Henman an Early Exit Again Tim Henman, ranked No. 17 in the world, crashed to his fourth-consecutive first-round defeat when he lost, 7-5, 6-3; to an unseeded Swede. Magnos Norman, in the European Community ten-

nis championship, Reoters reported

sure ner knee would allow a come. Henman, last year's losing finalist in back.

'The knee is in very good shape after was eating away at his self-confidence, the operation, but of course, it will never but that he boped to turn the tide soon. 'I'm not the first where the self-confidence.'

"I'm not the first player to struggle with confidence and I won't be the last," said the eighth-seed. "There is nothing you can do about it. If I can keep working at my game, I know I'll come ont the other side and the wins will come."

Man Facing Jail Over Shove in a Boys' Game

MILFORD, Connecticut — Kylé Boya was a 13-year-old Little League empire when he realized that sometimes adults take the game of haseball very-

Seriously.

What started out as a game played by
10- and 11 year-olds on Oct. 5, 1996,
ended up in Consecticut Superior Court: oo Tuesday, pitting Kyle against one of

The freckled-faced boy, now 15, took the witness stand to testify that a coach: Richard Burns, 39, shoved him after an emotional game. Burns was charged with breach of peace for allegedly shov-

ing Kyle into a fence.

Kyle had called off the game in the second inning because the adult coaches screamed at the calls.

"It didn't finish because the coaches" got out of hand," Kyle said. "They were yelling and got thrown out of the

The young ump, still wearing braces on his teeth, told a state prosecutor.

Mark Hurley, that he ordered the coaches off the field "for swearing and."

unsportsmanlike conduct."
He said Burns marched his team off the field and then returned and pushed him into a gate. "He pushed me from my shoulder into the fence." said Bova, who was a seventh-grader at the time.

My back burt a little bit." After the brief game between the Milford International team and the Burns-Construction team. Bova told his parents what happened and they took him to the police department to file a com-

plaint. Plaint.

The breach of-peace charge is a Class.

B misdemeanor that could bring a servence of six mooths in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

A defense attorney, Daniel Shepro, said Burns refused to plea bargain and demanded a trial because "my client says he's innocent. That's why we're here."

A second prosecution witness, David Hill, backed up Bova's account. Hill, an a assistant coach for the Milford International Team, said Burns made "qoite : a scene" when the umpire made a call he didn't agree with, and exhibited particularly malicious behavior toward

"He shoved Kyle Bova, almost viciously, into the fence," Hill testified.

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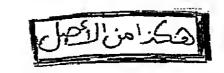
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SPORTS

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1998

THURSDAY: FEBRUARIA Stoudamire a Hit

Man Facily Portland Native Welcomed Home

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The Channey is involved and the deadand the feet of the control o lay bim until the trade dead rebounds for the Heat, who rebounds for the Heat, who tem me oach, Rick Pitino, referring have woo three straight and Bar, We the NBA trade deadline on seven of eight. Tim Harda-Galle A ... appenes militag.

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PROPER NEWS

:-17.

swiping the ball from Allen Iverson, and Philadelphia grabbed a rare victory over visiting Cleveland.

Iverson had 27 points for the 76ers, who broke a 12game losing streak to the Cavs. Derrick Coleman added 17 points and 15 re-bounds, while Theo Ratliff bad 17 points for the 76ers. Bulls 105, Pacers 97 Mi-

35th birthday by scoring 27 points in a spirited duel with Reggie Miller. Miller scored 34 points for the visiting Pacers, including

7-of-9 from 3-point range. The Bulls (39-15) opened the fourth quarter with a 13-5 spurt to grab a 16-point lead and went on to even their season series with the Pacers (36-15) at one victory apiece.

Heat 110, Tim Voshon Lenard scored 26 points on 10-of-13 shooting to lead Miami over visiting Minnesota, Alonzo Mourn-



way had 17 points and nine assists, and P.J. Browo added 10 points and 15 rebounds.

Spurs 95, Pistons 94 In San Antonio, Avery Johnson hit a wide open 15-foot jumper with 4.4 seconds left as the Spurs won without their injured center, David Robin-

points during a third-quarter paced the Mavericks. surge as Phoenix won at Dallas. Jason Kidd added 17 Ian Houston scored 21 points points and 14 rebounds and John Starks had 18 as against his former team, and Antonio McDyess had 18 fourth straight victory. The

Suns 95, Mavericks 77 Cliff victory in nine games, Mi-Robinson scored 14 of his 20 chael Finley's 22 points

Knicks 91, Nuggets 77 Al-New York won at Denver, its points and 13 rebounds to Knicks held the Nuggets to 14 belp the Suns to their seventh points in the fourth quarter.

Warriors Ship Joe Smith As Trade Deadline Looms

By Mike Wise

NEW YORK — Joe Smith is going home. Anfernee Hardaway and Mitch Richmond are going nowhere. And before Thursday at 6 P.M. eastern standard time, Christian Laettner could be headed almost anywhere.

With the National Basketball Association trading deadline looming, at least one of a million remored deals came to fruition on Tuesday while others either died or sprang to life on the bargaining table.

The Golden State Warriors decided that Smith, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 1995. was not worth the \$100 million contract he wants, so they sbipped him to his hometown of Philadelphia with Brian Shaw for Jim Jackson and Clarence Weatherspoon.

As one Easiern Conference general manager, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "They could have gonen much more for him three weeks ago, but that's what happens when you hold oo to a player you don'i want.'

The Orlando Magic and the Sacramento Kings were still entertaining offers for their perennial All-Stars, but neither Hardaway nor Richmond appeared headed to another team. Executives from both teams said they were in no hurry to deal franchise players who might bring more-equipped suitors in the off season.

But the Atlanta Hawks are apparently seriously interested in moving either Lactmer or Allan Henderson, their power-forward tandem, who will both be free agents at season's end and who decided not to negotiate contract extensions last summer.

According to an Eastern Conference team official, the Kings have offered Michael Smith and Billy Owens to the Hawks for Laettner. An Eastern Conference general manager also said that the Nets were interested in Laettner in a package that would involve Kendall Gill, but neither club would confirm

trade conversations involving Laettner. "Everybody in the basketball world knows we're exploring all our options," Pete Bab-cock, the Hawks' general manager, said. "We're trying to decide rationally what the Lacturer is averaging 14.8 points per game, his lowest point production since his freshman year at Duke University. His 7.4 rebounds per game is the second worst he has had in his six seasons in the league.

Meanwhile, while starting in place of a flu-ridden Laettner the past week. Henderson has played well and given credence to speculation that the Hawks cannot pay and retain both forwards in the off season.

"We like both players, and both figure prominently into what we do," Babcock said. "We are concerned about it."

The Toronto Raptors are still waiting for Kenny Anderson to report. Since being traded for Damon Stoudamire last Friday in a sixplayer swap between Portland and Toronto, the former Trail Blazers' point guard has waged a holdout to protest the deal and make sure he is re-routed to a contending team.

The Detroit Pistons are said to be that team by a number of team officials. The club has apparently offered Jerome Williams, Don Reand point guard Lindsey Hunter for An-

lerson and the Toronio center Zan Tabak.

Pat Riley is still talking to Phoenix about the possibility of moving Isaac Austin and Dan Majerle to the Suns for Cliff Robinson and Cedric Ceballos. It is not unthinkable that Ausnin and Ceballos will switch addresses, only because their current teams desperately want to get rid of them because of salary cap restraints this summer,

Several teams are already giving up on their rookie point guards. The Vancouver Grizzlies are shopping Antonio Daniels, and the Boston Celties are trying to move Chauncey Billups and the center Travis Knight before Thursday.

With another summer of spending a few months away, many teams are not angling to make their franchises better this season. Some are simply thinking about salary-cap room to sign their stars in the off season, "In our case, we have a team that's improved and good, but noi yei a championship contender," said John Nash, the Nets' general manager.

"I'm not saying we're going to do something, but if we did, it might be something small 10 put us in a position where we can make that next step during the off

to a large transplacement SCOREBOARD BASKETBALL NBASTANOHOS **NBA STANDINGS** in the Bullions Date. いっちょう You seat いでa 極直。 Alomi sew Jersey sew York Moshington diana optatie .765 .714 .680 .608 .453 .212 .180

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Socramento 46 (Stewart 8), Assists—Boston 19 (Edney 8), Sucrementa 23 (Richmond 6). MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES Connecticut 88, Notre Dame 79 Princelan 71, Penn 52

CRICKET SOUTH APRICA VS. PAKISTAN

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from Acquired RE Errick Rheft
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ioning cooch.

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SEMPTIAL Unich 3, Stuffgart 0 SCOTTLEH COP POURTH HOUND REPLAY FEIEMPLY ENTERNATIONAL Austragen XI T. Jopen S

The Associated Press Magic Johnson made the big talk, and Jasoo Kleio made the big shots. "I think we knew all along we were

> Michigan, 80-75, on Tuesday night. Klein's clutch performance capped a couple of emotional days at Michigan tate that featured a fiery pep talk by

Johnson. Johnson, who led Michigan State to the 1979 NCAA championship, showed up at practice on Monday and reminded the Spartans, who lead the Big Ten with two games remaining and haven't won a conference championship since 1990,

how much was at stake. With the victory, the Spartans (19-5. 12-2) remained in first place in the Big Ten. "Magic talked to us for a long time," said the team's playmaker, Mateen Cleaves, who had 14 points and seven assists. "I think it's time we started wearing that pride around here again. He sold us everyone who ever played as MSU would be watching this game."

After Pep Talk by Alumnus, Michigan State Rips Its Cross-State Rival About five minutes before the open- lead to 77-75 with 17.4 seconds remaining tip-off, Johnson and Greg Kelser — ing. But Klein, whose 3-pointer gave who also started on the 1979 team — Michigan State a 73-68 lead with 1:31

going to win," Klein said after scoring Breslin Center, the Spartans' home 12 of his 17 points in the second half to court. Before taking a seat in the stands, help No. 14 Michigan State beat No. 22 Johnson took the public-address micro-Johnson took the public-address micro-

A Dose of Magic Inspires the Spartans

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

phone. "We've got two more games banner up."

The Michigan coach, Brian Ellerbe, said: "How are we supposed to compete ahead for good at 56-54. with Magic? Is that legal? That crowd was in a frenzy. But that's Big Ten basketball at its best."

The Spartans, who have won their last nine bome games, took control from the

start. They led by as many as 18 points in the first half. But Michigan (18-8, 8-5) opened the second half with an 8-2 run and tightened its defense. Louis Bullock scored 26 points and Jerod Ward had 22 for Michigan.

Bullock's jumper cut the Spartans'

were introduced to the 15,138 fans at remaining, clinched it with two free Breslin Center, the Spartans' home throws with 6.4 seconds left.

No. 7 Connecticut 88, Notre Dame 79 Khalid El-Amin scored a career-high 30 points, and visiting Connecticut survived a late rally by Notre Dame.

El-Amin scored seven points in the rst 4:15 of the second after this," Johnson told the cheering crowd. "Then we can hang one more 12-point deficit with a 17-5 run to tie the game at 50. Another basket by El-Amin less than two minutes later put UConn

No. 9 Princeton 71, Penn 52 Sieve Goodrich scored 19 points as Princeton remained unbeaten in the Ivy League and won its 14th straight game.

The Tigers (21-1, 9-0) have won their last 12 conference games by at least 10 points, and second-year coach Bill Car-mody improved to 23-0 in the league.

Princeton's only loss this season was at No. 1 North Carolina. The visiting Quakers (14-10, 7-2) had a seven-game winning streak snapped.

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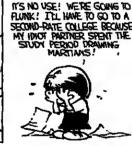


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WINTER OLYMPICS

With Ease, Czechs Send U.S. Hockey Team Home

Despite NHL Stars, Americans Miss Medal Round

By Rachel Alexander Vushington Post Service

NAGANO, Japan - II was hard to tell whether pain or shock was registering on the faces of the American hockey players on Wednesday, since they were holding their heads down for so long.

A 4-1 quarterfinal loss to the Czech Re-

public had knocked them out of the Olympics. and as they skated toward the Czech team to shake hands, no one seemed to want to look up at the scoreboard and face the truth.

Stocked with National Hockey League players for the first time, the U.S. squad blew chance after chance here, finishing sixth out of the eight teams in the tournament's main draw. In four games, the Americans defeated only one team, Belarus, and in their three losses, they were outscored, 12-4.

"This was the biggest waste of time, ever," the team's alternate captain, Keith Tkachuk, said. "I hate to be negative, but this is disgusting. We deserve to be out of it; we didn't play well from the start.

"It's devastating. From the opening shot, we weren't well enough to do anything. We were just a hig disappointment."

The United States, winner of the 1996

World Cup, was expected to compete for a gold medal and players said they had never considered going home without even playing a medal-round game. Another gold-medal favorite, Sweden, was also knocked out of the tournament on Wednesday hy Finland, 2-1. Canada rolled over Kazakhstan, 4-1, and Russia defeated Palayin 4-1. sia defeated Belarus, 4-1.

Finland's victory was a major surprise, hut looking back on the tournament, it was hard to call the Czech victory an upset. The Czechs, who have 12 NHL players, won two of their three round-rohin games, falling only to Rus-

The Americans lost their first game to Sweden, 4-2, starting the game strong but then looking lost on the international ice surface, which is larger than an NHL rink. They then defeated Belarus, 5-2, but the game was much closer than the score indicated. By the time the reason the Americans allowed the Czechs they got to their third and final round-robin to score four goals. The defensive lapses that game, a much-hyped matchup with Canada, plagued them throughout the Games showed



Gretzky celebrating after creating Steve Yzerman's goal. country, the Americans

OLYMPIC SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEB. 19 ninciry, 7 p.m.

COCKEY, Nagano—Mea: Sentifinala, Czech Rep pda. 245 p.m.; Russia vs. Finland, 645 p.m. plac Gonessess, Halubo—455km Teom. 1 p.m. IDBECATURE, Nagano—Woman: 5000 meters, 3

the Americans looked more comfortable on the ice surface. They struggled against goaltender Patrick Roy, however, and the defense

often made mental errors in a 4-1 loss.
On Wednesday, the U.S. players created more scoring chances than at any other time in the tournament, but they were simply unable to finish all but one of their 39 shots on the Czech goaltender, Dominik Hasek.

"We had a number of chances but Dominik Hasek was just unbelievable," said Ron Wilson, the U.S. Coach. "It just seemed we couldn't finish off, especially in the last two games, the opportunities that we managed to

On Tuesday, Wilson tried to give his players some extra motivation for this game by letting the team's trainer, Juergen Merz, shear his hair to a close-cropped crew cut. Wilson had a similar hairstyle at the World Cup and was apparently trying to remind his players of that more productive time. He also showed a video before the game that included scenes from the movies "Network" and "Animal

Neither technique worked, though. Part of the problem was Hasek, who may be able to propel the Czech Republic to a medal if he propel the Czech Republic to a medal if he continues to play this well. But Hasek wasn't the reason the Americans allowed the Czechs to score four goals. The defensive lapses that

either. They often failed to

up again and their goaltender.

goals," a forward, John Le-'"That'a and obviously one of the reasons I was on the team, and I

was not able to contribute. 'l'm extremely disappointed "LeClair added "It was an honor to play in the Olympics but we didn't just come over here to play, we came here to win.'

Compared to some of the Europeans and to the Canadians, who believe they are here on a mission for God and



Three Czechs defending Dominik Hasek, top, and his goal from an American attack.

seemed less intense both on and off the ice. pride — we needed to accomplish something

nightlife and not enough time practicing, winger Brett Hull said he had been in bed by 8 Mike Richter, did not sparkle.

The forward corps were crossword puzzles. He wasn't sure that was not great success stories such a good idea, however.

'That more than anything was a downfall

skate back and help the defense when opponents were in their zone, and when they had the puck they had trouble scoring.

"I think we coped pretty well as a team, but the bottom line is that we just didn't score back for USA Hockey. Still, the frustration goals 32 a forward John Lewas overwhelming.

"I'm very disappointed - we came here something you need to win, with the expectation of winning a gold medal," Wilson said. "This is something that will always be in the back of my mind: 'what if.'" In the other games, The Associated Press

reported: Canada 4. Kazakhstan 1 Wayne Gretzky had two assists and Patrick Roy stopped 16 shots as Canada beat Kazakhstan.

The victory set up a showdown in Friday'a semifinals between the goalies Patrick Roy and Dominik Hasek.

"He's a great player, up there with the best players in the game," Gretzky said of Hasek. "One player doesn't beat a team, though."

teams with spotless records. The Canadians 'For our little country, we have a lot of have outscored opponents, 16-4, in four

> Playing its first Olympic hockey tournament, Kazakhstan was outscored, 25-6, in three round-robin losses. "The Canadian team served as the teacher," the Kazakh coach, Boris Alexandrov, said. "It was a major learning experience to play against

Joe Nieuwendyk and Shayne Corson cored 42 seconds apart in the game's first For them, this is the pinnacle 2:13 to give Canada a 2-0 lead before a rancous partisan crowd. The Kazakhs scored 11/2 minutes later when Konstantin Shafranov every indication they regard wristed a shot through the legs of a Canadian this whole experience as an defender that bounced off Roy's stick and into annoyance. When Brett Hull

Late in the second period, Brendan Shanahan and Steve Yzerman made it 4-1 with goals 32 seconds apart, both assisted by Gret-

Finland 2, Sweden 1 Teemn Selanne scored twice in the third period as Finland eliminated will face Russia next.

Sweden was without its standout defenseman, Ulf Samuelsson, who played in three games before being banned from the Olympics for having both U.S. and Swedish passports. Selanne, the top scorer in the NHL: this season, opened the scoring with 15:48 remaining. He made it 2-0 with 7:17 left. Peter Forsberg scored for the Swedes with

12 seconds to go. ayers in the game, "Gretzky said of Hasek.
One player doesn't beat a team, though."
Canada and Russia, both 4-0, are the only

Women's Hockey: A Dream Grows Up

TAGANO, Japan — I realized at a young age that I couldn't be Mickey Mantle, even though was a better hitter than my brother - from both sides of the plate. So I settled for pre-tending to be Mickey Mantle's daughter.

That's what girls did, it seemed. We dreamed of being something but often settled for something less, either because there was no

VANTAGE POINT

opportunity to achieve what we wanted or because we felt compelled to defer to what our male relatives thought was best for us.

When Cammi Granato was growing up in the Chicago auburbs, she didn't want to be like Denis Savard of the Savard. When A.J. Mieczko ging along with her brother to play hockey, she wanted to be Kelly Kisio and some of the other players she admired on the Rangers.

They were laughed at. They were told hockey was a sport for boys. Their neighbors scolded their parents for letting them play. They had to tuck their hair under their helmets and register under their initials or male first names to be allowed to play.

But they played. And it wasn't necessary to understand or like women's hockey to be touched by the spirit the U.S. women's team brought to these gray, passionless Games on Tuesday when they won the gold medal at the first wornen's Olympic tournament,

They wanted to be here. They sacrificed to be here. of their athletic lives. Their male counterparts have given said he was as committed to the Olympic effort as the next guy, no one realized the next guy was sitting on the adjacent bar stool with Hull, Chris Chelios and other U.S. players at a Nagano night spot

It was shameful that only a few players from the U.S. Hat arena for the women's 3-1 victory over Canada.

women. So did Wayne Gretzky, Rob Blake, Patrick Roy, and Chris Pronger. Eric Lintimes to lead ovations. Roh much of it.

flag to stir applause for the women's valiant effort.

The U.S. men were in a team meeting that coincided with the women's game, even though coach Ron Wilson and several players had de-clared they would attend to show their support. That's the kind of support the women used to get — no support at all. Not that it stopped them.

And it's the U.S. men's loss. They missed a game that had enough emotional resor ance to slice through the thick layers of cynicism and fatigue

that form among journalists by this stage of the Games. Who couldn't be happy for Granato? Or for 5-foot-L 128-pound Lisa Brown-Miller, who gave up the security of coaching the worn en's hockey team at Princeton hut almost quit the U.S. team a couple of years ago? When her husband told her, "Come Blackhawks, she wanted to be February 1998, I don't want to see you sitting on the couch was a kid in Connecticut, tag- and having regrets because you didn't try out for that couldn't live with herself it she didn't try to be part of this, She tried and she won, but

victory was not bers alone. This was a triumph for any-one, male or female, whose dream has ever been ridiculed. It was a victory for whatever innocence remains in sports, for everyone who compe for the love of a sport and not financial rewards.

It was not the most beautiful hockey game ever played. To anyone accusishing skills of NHL players, women's gold-medati game - like most women's casionally frustrating. Playpnck, but their lack of arm and

the length of their passes Their legs aren't as muscular as those of male players, so they don't skate as swiftly. L'm not sure I would pay to see games in a women's pro-fessional bockey league if one is ever established. That said, it was impossible not to feel happy for

the U.S. women Tuesday or it identify with them and their pect many male sportswriters felt the same.

· We can all see something of ourselves in the female hockey players, who look Ray Bonrque found the more like "real" people than time to cheer for the Canadian do the doll-like figure skaters or 7-foot behemoth basketball players we have out on Keith Primeau, Adam Foote pedestals. We can feel happy for them as athletes who were dros rose to his feet several given so little, yet made so

Judges Vote for Elegance Over Joyful Exuberance

By Jere Longman

NAGANO, Japan — Tara Lipinski issued a challenge with the performance of her life Wednesday and Michelle Kwan answered with a short program that was deliberate and safe, but precise and refined under pressure. The judges have shown that they tavor elegance in the Winter Games and Kwan is one of the most artistic skaters of all time.

Kwan, 17, the 1996 world champion. made a more sophisticated choice of music, costume and choreography than the 15-year-old Lipinski. While Lipinski skated to movie music from "Anastasia." Kwan chose a piano trio and concerso by Rachmaninoff that huilt to a crescendo into her triple toe loop. She is two years older than Lipinski, and those two years of maturity are likely to make the difference between a gold medal and a silver if Kwan skates cleanly in Fri-

day's long program. Lipinski landed a more difficult triple lutz-double loop combination to Kwan's triple lutz-double toe loop, and Lipinski also performed a more challenging triple flip to Kwan's triple toe. But while Lipinski is a light, quick jumper, Kwan seems to savor each jump, flowing out of her axel, lutz and

toe loop with extended gracefulness. She also attained greater height than Lipinski on her double axel and her swan-like spiral drew applause as Kwan glided on one leg, making a difficult edge change in front of the judges in an enchanting display of flexibility, bal-

ance and technical virtuosity. Wednesday's two and a half minute short program, with its eight required elements involving jumps, spins, spirals and footwork, counted for one-third of the scoring. Friday's four-minute free skate will count for two-thirds of the scoring. It is here that Kwan has an even greater advantage because the artistic

scores serve as the nebreaker. Lipinski skated 30 minutes before Kwan and delivered a joyful, grown-up performance that received a 5.9 for artistry from the French judge and 5.8s

from five other judges.

Kwan was unhurried and flawless. fully completing each jump and spin without appearing to be looking prema-turely ahead to the next element. She did not attempt a triple-triple combination because she did not feel that she needed it. She was careful with her individual triple jump, performing a triple toe loop instead of a more difficult triple flip. Kwan received marks of 5.9 across

the board for presentation and eight of the nine judges placed her first.

At the U.S. national championships, Kwan had inserted the triple flip into her short program because of a stress frac-ture in her left foot. The triple toe is the easiest of triple jumps, but it hurt her foot when she planted her left toe pick. But her foot has improved markedly in the last month, and Wednesday she returned to the triple toe loop because it felt more comfortable and reliable.

"I preferred that she do the flip, but it was her call," said Frank Carroll, who coaches Kwan. "I said, This is your life, your Olympics, so you accept the re-

But it was only by a matter of degree that Kwan was better than Lipinski, who toured last summer and rehearsed in front of a mirror to improve her artistry. On Wednesday, she skated as a young woman coming of age.

"Oh my God, it was the best per-formance I did ever," Lipinski said to her coach, Richard Callaghan, as she awaited her scores.

She was fast and jubilant, smiling widely when she landed the triple flip that she had crash-landed at nationals and again when she landed her double axel. But it was the polish of her spirals and grace of her overall performance that defined her performance.

"Artistically and emotionally, that'a the best I've ever seen her do,'



Tara Lipinski of the United States skating the short program Wednesday.

GAMES: Kwan and Lipinski Are 1 and 2

Continued from Page 1

smile. Kwan looked into the stands before beginning her program and was motivated by the sight of the American fans with their U.S. flags. ''I thought, God, I'm in heaven,' she said. "There were people clapping, a

million people watching and I was by myself skating. Nothing mattered. I said it's me and the ice and that's it." Lipinski, who skated before Kwan, said she had never poured so much of

her heart into a performance. 'That was the first time I've done the program that I thought I could cry," said

Lipinski, who did begin crying seconds after completing it.
"I can't even explain that feeling."
she said. "It's so hard, so hard at that

moment. When you do it, it's like a Another U.S. favorite, Nicole Bobek, made three major mistakes and burst into tears after leaving the ice. She fin-

ished 17th. Lactitia Hnbert, a highly regarded three-time Olympian from France, fell on a jump and found herself 12th; and Butyrskaya, this year's European cham-

pion, two-footed a landing and thus couldn't touch Kwan or Lipinski who akated without so much as a bobble in the two-minute, 40 second program that severely penalizes any technical

Lu Chen of China finished fourth, and Irina Slutskaya of Russia, fifth. Any of the top three could win the gold Friday by winning the long program, which counts for two-thirds of the score.

As Kwan and Lipinski sat side-byside behind microphones after the competition, wearing identical Team USA jackets and high-voltage smiles, it was easy to forget the difficult path each took to this competition.

Kwan lost her U.S. and world championship titles early last year to the upstart Lipinski after making mistakes in the short programs at both competitions. Kwan's disappointment was so great that she became angry with herself, and decided that the theme of this season would be the joy of skating, since skating is her favorite thing to do.

It is also the theme of her long proram Friday to "Lyra Angelica." William Alwyn concerto.

When I'm on the ice, I don't think anything can stop me," Kwan said "I'm really confident on the ice. Even off the ice. I might think too much, but when I walk on the ice, it's O.K. It's like medicine.'

It was during Lipinski's rise that the Kwan-Lipinski rivalry was born. After the 1997 world championships, in which Kwan finished second to Lip inski, this pair was labeled the future of women's figure skating and figured to duel it out through the 1998 Olympics When the 1997-98 season began last

fall, it was Lipinski's turn to be secondbest. She lost to Kwan at Skate America in October. Then Lipinski finished second at Trophee Lalique in November, facing

heavy criticism for a tiny technical flavor in her lutz, which appears to have beeff Many wondered whether she was

cracking under the pressure of having been the youngest female to win the world title.

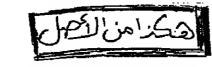
Meanwhile, Kwan's season took different sort of nosedive. A stress fracture in her foot flared up in November and forced her to miss two mooths of competition. As Lipinski seemed to be recovering from her difficulties with a victory in the Champions Series final if December, Kwan was still rehabilitate

Yet at the U.S. nationals, her first competition after the injury, Kwan finished first as Lipinski fell during the short program and finished second.

There would be no repeat of past mistakes Wednesday night. "It's fun," Lipinski-said. "I didn't want to get off the ice. Tonight was so

memorable, it was even better than worlds," in 1997. "It's just a feeling I can't describe." The Olympic gold medal seems to have become the province of either Kwan and Lipinski.

'In my start pose," Kwan said. thought: Ready or not, here I go." Turns out, she was ready. So was



WINTER OLYMPICS

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n's Hockey. Heavy Snow Postpones Alpine Ski Competition Zamader wated a Canada State of the State of

The Associated Press

SHIGA KOGEN, Japan — Olympic alpine skiers moved to a new mountain Wednesday, and the bad weather came

An overnight blizzard dumped more than three feet (a meter) of snow on Mount Higashidate, forcing postponement of the men's giant slalom and delaying Alberto Tomba's bid for a medal in an precedented fourth Olympics.

Bulldozers and an army of 750 workers, most of them camouflage-clad members of the Japanese defense force, worked through the day to clear drifts up to six feet deep on the giant slalom course.

Officials were optimistic that the course would be ready by Thursday, when the men's giant slalom and, on a mountain 10 miles away, the women's mountain to times away, the will have stalom are now both scheduled.

"We can get it in shape." said

Pym, technical director for the
"These guys will work as

"We can get it in shape," said David Pym, technical director for the men's race. "These guys will work as hard as anybody I've ever seen before."

The blizzard reduced visibility to zero Tuesday night on the winding, narrow toll road that leads from Nagano to the scattered ski areas of the Shiga Kogen region. Cars parked at the hotels along the way were little more than bumps in the snow.

The storm didn't subside until about 5 'A.M., and that didn't leave enough time to remove the snow in time.

Bad weather has wiped out 6 of the 11 days of alpine skiing. That left three days --- and four races --- on the schedule, so the options were limited.

a effetige in ge Bjoerndalen The muse Leads Nordic T. All off E. Sweep in Sprint - - - 3 100 M

NOZAWA ONSEN, Japan - Ole Einar Bjoerndalen grew up in a Nor-wegian village where biathloo was just about the only fun boys could have. On Wednesday, for the swift sharpshooter, the fun turned into gold.

"I had perfect skiing and the best

shooting I've ever done," said Bjo-erndalen, who won the 10-kilometer sprint in 27 minutes, 16.2 seconds. Foensing carefully each time he pulled the

rigger, he struck all 10 targets. With the silver going to a Norwegian learnmate and the bronze to a Finn, the Nordic nations put their stamp on this skiand-shoot sport at the Nagano games. Frode Andresen had to overcome two

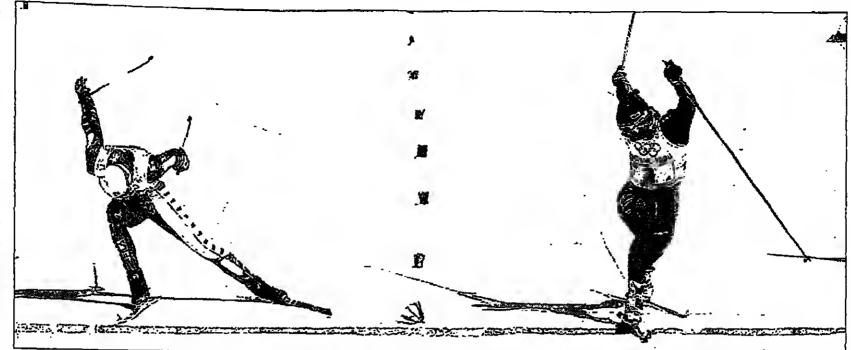
BIATHLON

the silver in a 28:17.8. Ville Raikkonen missed one target to finish in 28:21.7. It was Norway's second biathlon gold, double the number for traditional biathlon powers Germany and Russia.

"I think we have a really good chance for the relay," Bjoerndalen said of the final men's biathlon event. "We have five or six people who can do well." - Eight of the competitors shot perfect

scores, including Victor Maigonrov, the Russian who is ranked third in World Cup standings after Bjoerndalen. Ricco Gross of Germany, the world No. 1, has not fared well at these Games. He finished 17th in the sprint and sixth in the earlier 20 kilometers.

Bjoerndalen thought he had the gold in his grasp Tuesday. When officials stopped the 10-kilometer sprint due to heavy fog and snow, the 24-year-old student was leading the field and coming into the final two kilometers. "I was really angry," he said. "But five minutes later I was ready for the new race." In was been



Norway's Thomas Alsgaard, right, lunges at the finish line to heat Italy's Silvio Fauner and win the gold medal in a cross-country relay by 0.2 seconds.

Norway's Dahlie Collects a Record 7th Gold

By Christopher Clarey
New York Times Service

HAKUBA, Japan — Every Olympic event that Bjorn Dahlie now enters is not simply a race against his opponents hut a race against his predecessors.

After Wednesday, he has defeated them all. Norway's remarkable and remarkahly slim victory over Italy in the 40-kilometer (24.8-mile), four-man relay gave Dahlie his seventh Olympic gold medal: more than any athlete in Winter Olympic history. His 11 career medals are also a Winter Olympic record.

"Of course it means something to me, and I will be able to fully appreciate it in some years when I'm a grandfather and I'm sitting around watching old videos," said the 30-year-old Dahlie. "But for me, it's more important right now to focus on each single race."

There was much to focus on during this sunlit morning: a rarity in these Olympics that have alternated indiscriminately between rain, snow and fog. Four years ago in Lillehammer, the Italians stunned the Norwegians in front of more than 100,000 fans in the Birkebeiner Ski Stadium as Silvio Fauner outsprinted Dablie in the stretch, winning the gold by the smallest margin in Olympic relay history: four-tenths of a second.

Dahlie no longer skis the anchor leg. And after Norway's Sture Sivertsen got off to a disastrous start, finishing the first leg 22.6 seconds off the lead in 10th position, and Norway's second skier Erling Jevne cnt that deficit to 12.6 seconds, Dahlie took off in freestyle winning medals in bunches: the endur-

pursuit of Italy's Fabio Maj. He quickly erased the lead and then, in a tactical move, slowed to let ftaly's Faunce start the anchor leg in front.

This time, Fauner's would-be foil was Dahlie's Norwegian neighbor Thomas Alsgaard. But in the end, Alsgaard did what Dahlie could not, outlunging the Italian at the finish line with

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

his long left leg to win hy an even smaller margin than in 1994; two-tenths of a second. It was Alsgaard's second victory in the stretch in Hakuba: He also outsprinted Dahlie to win the gold in the 15-kilometer freestyle pursuit.

After beating the Italians convincingly in last year's relay at the World Championships, the Norwegians had now beaten them in a time of one hour, 40 minutes and 55.7 seconds with much more at stake. It would be unfair to the likes of Sonja

Henie, Birger Ruud, Irina Rodnina, Eric Heiden or even Alberto Tomba to call Dahlie the greatest Winter Olympian in history. It can be argued convincingly that cross-country skiers are over-re-warded at the Olympics. Like alpine skiing, cross-country has five medal events for men, but alpine skiing and other sports offers much greater distinctions between disciplines: the slalom and downhill in alpine are much more disparate than the 10-kilometer classic and 50-kilometer freestyle.

Cross-country skiers make a habit of

ance, temperament and technical support (waxing and material) that make a skier a champion over one distance often translate well to another. And though some skiers are appreciably better in classical technique than the free-style, or skating, technique. Dahlie is no specialist,

Slightly more menacing in freestyle, he has won two of his five individual gold medals in classical races, including the 10-kilometer event he won here last week to rebound from a miscalculation about wax that had caused him to finish 20th in the 30-kilometer freestyle.

What is easier to argue is that Dahlie is the greatest cross-country skier in history. According to former French skier Francis Repellin, who is now one of Dahlie's ski technicians, his tolerance for oxygen deficit is "extraor-dinary" and his tolerance for training is the same as he logs more than 6,000 miles a year on skis, roller skis, hicycle, iking boots and canoe.

He has become a red-headed cocktail of drive and precision who is perhaps even more meticulous than Swedish cross-country great Gunde Svan, who ranks second behind Dahlie in all-time World Cup victories.

Dahlie plans his daily schedule down to the minute and is so concerned about maintaining perfect health - finely tuned skiers are more susceptible to viruses - that when he arrives in a strange hotel room, he spreads a sheet of plastic on the floor to protect himself against germs and sleeps with an air purifier. Although cross-country skiing is an

often solitary and always grueling way to earn a good living. Dahlie is not onedimensional. He is an accomplished hunter who often tracks birds and moose in the wildemess with his dog. For the last two summers, he and former Norwegian teammate Vegard Ulvang have hosted a popular television program in which they sample the cuisines and cul-tures of Europe with help from a Norwegian chef.

Dahlie also has a family with long-time girlfriend Vilde. The couple, who live in Nannestad, have two young sons: Siver, 3, and Sander, 1, Both are 100 young to appreciate what their father means to Norway: a nation where Nordie sports have as much resonance as football in Texas.

Dahlie's recently published autobio-raphy enutled "Gulljakten" (Going for Gold) has sold approximately 140,000 copies in a nation of 4.3 million.

"It's difficult for somebody outside Scandinavia to understand," Dahlie once said. "I have had people come up to me in the street and tell me they have been crying in front of the television." There has been some controversy.

After winning the 800-meter gold medal at the last Summer Olympics. Norwegian runner Vebjom Rodal criticized Dahlie for using an altitude house for training, claiming it gave him an un-ethical advantage because it artificially increased his red-blood-cell count. Dahlie did not disagree but has continued to use the method, as have many of his competitors in Finland, Sweden and

Flu Strikes Japan and Finds Way To Games

By Kevin Sullivan Washington Post Service

NAGANO, Japan — In an Olympic Games plagued for a week by bad weather, the latest enemy is a vicious flu that has swept through Japan and landed squarely in the lungs of dozens of athletes, officials and journalists in

Nearly 900,000 people have taken ill and at least four children have died in Japan this winter in one of the worst influenza outbreaks in years. At least 20 people, including 17 schoolchildren and three elderly people, have died from complications caused by the flu.

About 900 schools have shut down to siem the virus's spread, and more than 15,000 more have canceled at least some classes. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's wife, Kumiko, was bos-

pitalized recently for the flu. In Nagano, it seems as if everyone is coughing on the shuttle buses that carry

people from one venue to the next. Chaner about snow and fog and rain has been replaced by more serious talk about antihiotics and pneumonia. Most news organizations and athletic delegations have had at least one person a day ill with high fever, respiratory ailments and other flu symptoms.

The American figure skating star Tara Lipinski said she was considering moving out of the athletes' village into a hotel because so many athletes were ill.

Several other gold-medal hopefuls were too ill to compete in events for which they had trained for years. Germany's top-ranked figure skater,

Tanja Szewczenko, withdrew from the Games before her event even started. The skater had been sick with the flu for more than a week. The Canadian pairs figure skaters

Marie-Claude Savard-Gagnon and Luc Bradet both came down with the flu, and Savard-Gagnon was unable to complete

her skating routine, Elvis Stojko, the Canadian silver medalist, blamed a "brutal flu" and a groin pull for his failure to win the gold in figure skating. Hiroshi Okudera, the medical care

director for the Olympics, said 70 people have been treated for cold or flu symptoms at Olympic clinics. He said the vast majority had simple coughs and colds, but two or three were referred to local hospitals for further treatment.



Eric Bergoust of the U.S. doing his second jump during the freestyle event.

A Golden Sweep for 2 U.S. Daredevils

By Ira Berkow

IIZUNA KOGEN, Japan - Nikki Stooe jumped from the fourth floor better than any other woman Wednesday and won an Olympic gold medal. Eric Bergousi did similarly among the men, leaping perhaps from the fifth floor, and be, too, earned a gold for his troubles. It was a gold-medal sweep for the Americans in what is otherwise known as the freestyle skiing aerials.

"I can't believe it," Stone said. "I'm so happy.'

Bergoust's broad smile showed that he was sharing Stone's delight.

Stone, a 23-year-old from Westborough, Massachusetts, made her ski run from a ramp on the side of a snowy mountain here — she went as high as a four-story building before her descent — and landed without falling or, shockinely to many first-time spectators, without hreaking every bone in her body.

Bergoust, 29, outflipped Sebastien Fourras of France, the silver medalist, and Dmitri Daschinsky of Belarus, who

Bergoust scored 255.64 points for his two jumps to 248.79 for Foucras. Scor-

ing is computed on 70 percent for the jump and 30 percent for the landing While growing up in Missoula, Montana, Bergousi always wanted to be an acrobat, a pilot or a skier. Now he is

all three. "I don't know what to say," said Bergoust, who finished seventh in the

aerials in the 1994 Winter Games in

FREESTYLE SKIING

Lillehammer, Norway, "I have never tried to think past this moment." In the women's draw, Stone somer-

saulted a few times, twirled a few times and went head over skis in one or two other fashions in the two jumps that each of the 12 contestants executed. It was the greatest degree of difficulty

that any of the women attempted. Her first jump put her into first place, and later all she had to do to win the gold was essentially the same thing she accomplished on the first. "I had a game plan and I stuck to it," she said as she burried to embrace her

boyfriend, Michael Spencer, a moguls skier, on the sidelines. Stone's total score of 193 comfort-

ahly surpassed the silver medalist, enth.

186.97. Colette Brand of Switzerland was third at 171.83.

Stone, a former gymnast, has been skiing in this fashion for about six years, and was 13th in the 1994 Winter Olympics. She had been a world champion, but last year she injured ber back.

When she returned to action, she did so with a little less bravura than in times when she had been roore solidly stitched together. After all, she didn't graduate magna cum laude in psychology for nothing.

But soon she was regathering her roental and physical momentum.

"I'm a thrill seeker," she said. "I run on adrenaline, and you can't get more adrenaline than this."

Pine boughs were strewn in the snow, a precaution in freestyle skiing aerials on days like this one in which the sky was gray. The green boughs are a signal to the somersaulting aerialist which is the earth and which is the sky. To be going down when you think you're going up can result in quite a surprise landing. Xu's silver was the first Olympic

medal in skiing in the history of China. Her teammate Dandan Guo was sev-

MEDALS

COUNTRY STANDINGS

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

BIATHLON

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Peland, 29:40.8 (1): 29. Sven Fischer. Ger-mann. 29:47.1 (2): 30. Rusian Lyssenka. Ukraine, 29:49.6 (0); 31. Valerly Ivanov. Kazakstan, 29:58.8 (5): 32. Ilmars Bricks, Larvia, 30:17. (4): 33. Tomaz Globacnik. Slovenka, 30:04.4 (3): 34. Carstan Haymann. Germany, 30:19.6 (2): 35. Hobert Leftgeb, Italy, 30:10.0 (1): 36. Indrek Tobretuts, Es-tonia, 30:11.3 (3): 37. Aleksel Aldarov. Be-larus, 30:12.3 (4): 39. Wolfgang Permer, Austria, 30:13.5 (4): 39. Wolfgang Retmann. Austria, 30:14.2 (2): 40. Aleksander Grait Slovenka, 30:24.2 (3): 41. Lubantir Machy-niak. Slovenka, 30:30.3 (1): 42. Tomaz Zem-ves, Slovenka, 30:30.3 (1): 42. Tomaz Zem-ves, Slovenka, 30:30.3 (1): 43. Shutchi Seklya. niak, Slovekia, 30:30.3 (1): 42. Tomaz Zemva, Slovenia, 30:32.1 (1): 43. Shuichi Sekha, Japon, 30:33.4 (3): 43. Janno Prants. Estania, 30:33.4 (3): 45. Andrel Deryzembya, Ukraine, 30:33.6 (3): 46. Vadim Sashuria, Belarus, 30:34.6 (1): 47. Michael Otxon, Britain, 30:34.6 (1): 47. Michael Otxon, 30:35.0 (3): 49. Dan Westover, United States, 30:39.5 (1): 50. Thierry Dussarre, France, 30:43.6 (1): 57. Zdenek Viele, Czech Republic, 30:45.5 (2): 52. Rene Cattarinussi, Italy, 30:50.0 (4): 33. Petr Garabili, Czech Republic, 30:51.2 (3): 54. Dinitriy Pantov, Kazakslan, 30:51.8 (3): 55. Aleisandr Popov, Belarus, 30:53.0 (2): 56. Alexe Kobelew, Russic, 31:02.8 (4): 57. Gueorgul Kasabov, Bulgaria, 31:09.5 (0): 58. Athanasios Tsukirts, Greece, 31:14.6 (2): 59. Li-

utouras Borlia, Lithvania. 31:23.7 (5); 60. Jay Holkilnen, United Stotos, 31:31.6 (3); 61. Alsushi Kazama, Japan, 31:41.2 (6); 62. Reinhard Neuner, Austria. 31:53.3 (4); 63. Jones Panylk, Hungary, 31:50.0 (7); 64. Martus Ene, Romania. 31:54.8 (2); 65. Alox-sond: Tropulaev, Krypyzstan. 31:55.8 (4); 66. Kevin Guintillo. Conodo, 32:22.4 (3); 61. Julien Robert, Franca. 32:52.4 (9); 68. Mark Gee, Britan. 32:03.3 (5); 69. Andreas Hey-mann, Franca. 33:05.9 (2); 79. Jeon Jee-won, Soeth Korea. 35:05.5 [6]; 71. Ivan Buc-tag, Modora. 36:32.8 (6); NR. Raphasi Moldova 36:33.8 (6); NR. Rephas Police, France, DNF: NR. Jean-Mark Chablez, Switzerland, INF.

CROSS COUNTRY MIN'S 4x10 KM BELAY

FRUIL

1. Norway (Sture Sivertsery Erling Jewner
Bjorn Doehlier Thomas Alaconett). 1 minutes, 55.7 seconds. 2. Holy (Marco Albarella: Futrio Valbusco Fablo Maji Silvio Fauner), 1:40:55.9. 3. Firland (Herri Kirvesrieni: Mita Mythice; Somi Repa: Jarl Isomessee), 1:42:15.5. 4. Sweden (Mathics Fredriksson: Miklas Jon-

Wigger Sed Koch Reis Burgermeister Wi-heim Aschwanden). 1:42:49:2:7. Jopan (Kaf-suhlto Etrisuwar Hiroyuk Imas Misso-Horigome: Kazutosh Nogotoma). 1:43:16:7: 1. Germany (Andreas Schkoffen: Jochen Bohte: Rene Sommerfeldt Johann Auehlegg), 1:43:16.1; 9. Austria (Merkus Gondler: Alais Stadiober Actina Walcher, Christian Hoffmann), 1:43:16.5; 10. Estania (Andrus Veerpoits Roof Offer Elene Kassing Jank Mael, 1:44:20.97 IL Sievalde (Ivan Before Meette Bridget: Andrei Parkkey Stonisk Jezik), 1:44:31.4; 12. Likroine (Gennadi Niters Aleksander Zerovnýs Mykhalio Artichane Nikolai Popovichu, 1:44:23,9; 13.
France (Vincent Villaz: Patrick Romy Heve Balland Philippe Sanches), 1:45:00.2; 14. Belans (Sergel Dellidovich Alexel Tregobor:

Prokummy Sergel Krisnies Sergel Tchep-llury). 1:42:39.5: 6. Switzerland (Jeremias Wigger: Beal Koch: Refo Burgermehter: Wil-

FIGURESKATING WOMEN'S DIDET PROGRAM ssor: Per Elofiser: Henrik Forsberg). 1:4225.2: 5. Ressia (Viodinir Legatir: Alexai 1. Michelie Kwan, United States, 0.5 for-

source), 1:45:15.3: 15. Czech Repo

(Lukas Bauer, Martin Koukai: Petr Michi: Jirl

tored placements (Q); 2. Toro Lipinski. United

States, 1.0 (0); 3. Maria Bufyrsknya, Russia, 1.5 (0); 4. Lu Chen, China, 2.0 (0); 5. Irina Slutsknya, Russia, 2.5 (0); 6. Surya Bonafy, France, 3.0 (0); 7. Elena Liasheria, Uluraina, 3.5 (0); 8. Vanessa Gusmeroli, France, 4.0 (0); 9. Toryana Matinina, Uzbekistan, 4.5 (0); 10. Yelena Sakalova, Russia, 5.0 (0); 11. Joanne Caffer, Australia, 5.5 (0); 12. Lantida Hubert, France, 4.0 (0); 13. Polyana Maria Plachiai, Debard, 6. Carrel, Australia, 3.9 (col) 12. Laborat Indexis France, 6.0 (Dr.) 13. Annos Rechelo, Poland, 6.5 (D); 14. Shiruka Arakewa, Japan, 7.0 (Dr.) 15. Yufiq Lavrenchek, Ularelne, 7.5 (Dr.) 16. Lenka Kulavana, Czech Republic, 8.0 (Dr.) 17. Nicole Bobek, United Stetes, 8.5 (Dr.) 18. Yufiq Vorableve, Azerbaijan, 9.0 (Dr.) 19. Julia Sebestyon, 18. (Dr.) hirry, Agerbayin, 9.0 (Q): 93, Justa Seneryon, Hungary, 9.5 (Q): 20. Also Orei, Finland, 10.0 (Q): 21. Julia Lautsura, Austria, 10.5 (Q): 22. Majca Kopoc, Slovenia, 11.0 (Q): 23. Shirene Human, South Africa, 11.5 (Q): 24. Marta Andrade. Spein, 12.0 (Q); 25. Ivana Jakupcevic. Cradia: 12.5; 26. Helena Grundberg, Sweden,

FREESTYLE SKIING MER'S AFRIALS

13.0: 27. Tony Bombardieri, Italy, 13.5: 28.

FINAL 1. Eric Bergoost, U.S., 255.64.

Sofia Penkova Bulgaria 14.0.

A Ales Volenta, Crech Republic, 292,25; 5, Briff Swartiey, U.S., 231,61; 6. Alexander Mikhallov, Russia, 229,98; 7. Christian Ri-pover, Austria, 227,68; 8. Alexae Grabin, Be-larus, 220,99; 9. Stornistov Kravchuk, Ukraine,

2. Xu Nannan, China, 186.97. 3. Colette Brand, Switzerland, 177.83. 4. Teflana Kazachorika, Ukraine, 167.32; 5, Alia Tsuper, Ukraine, 166.12; 6. Hilde Lid. Aed Isrper, Usanes Ide. 12 6. Inde Lid. Norway, 160.18: 7. Goo Dandon, China, 159.74: 8. Yulid Kliokova, Ukraine. 153.15; 9. Veronica Brenner, Carooda, 157.14; 70. Olena Venchik. Ukraine. 139.05: 11. Michele Rohrboch, Switzerland. 129.36: 12. Jl Xianou.

ICEHOCKEY

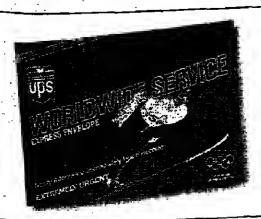
1s1 Period—1, R.-V. Komensky (A. Yashint. 2nd Period—2, R.-A. Kovalenko (S. Fedorov, A. Yashin). 3rd Period—3, R.-

P. Bure. 4. R. A. Merozev (V. Zelepukin, O. Kasparailisi, S. B.-S. Erkevich (D. Khmyl, E. Rosbchini, Shofs on God-B. 6-11-9-26. R. 7-17-11-35. Gauties—B.-Andrei Mezin 135-31 J. R.-Mikhall Shialenka

United States
1 0 0-1
Check Republic
1 3 1-4
1st Period—1, U.S.-M. Modana (T. Amonte,
K. Tkachuki, 2nd Period—2 C.-V. Ruzicka (J.
Jagr, M. Straka), 2, C.-J. Jagr (J. Dopita), 4,
C.-M. Rudrisky (R. Lang, R. Smehilk), 3rd
Period—5, C.-J. Dopita, Shets on Gool—U.S.10-14-15-39, C.-5-9-6—19, Goolies—U.S.M. Michter (18-14), J. Vonblesbrouck [1-1),
C.-D. Hasek (39-38).
Karalesten

1st Period—1. C.-J. Nieuwendyk (T. Fleury, P. Roy), 2. C.-S. Corson (E. Undros), 2. K.-K. Shafranov (A. Karashkov), 2nd Period—3, C.-B. Shanahan (W. Gretzky, R. Bourque), 4. C.-Standard (W. Greizky), R. Boyrage), C.-S. Yzeman (W. Greizky), R. Boyrage), 4. C.-S. Yzeman (W. Greizky), 3rd Pariod—None, Sheis on Godi—K.- 10-3-4—17, C.- 8-16-13—17, Godies—K.-V. Yeremeyer (27-33), C.- B. Pari (17-14)

Finand 9 0 2—2 Swaden 9 0 1—1 1st Period—None. 2nd Period—None. 3rd



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A simple solution. Every time a person is selected for a high government position, he must be swom in with his own special prosecutor. The special

prosecutor will remain at his side the entire time the person Buchwald serves, becoming part of the family.

The special prosecutor will have the right to subpoena witnesses, tap phones and investigate the sex life of anyone acquainted with the appointee or his family.

Let's say Willington is sworn in as the president's adviser on haldness. His special prosecutor will immedi-

A Very Bubbly Year For Champagne Sales

Agence France-Presse EPERNAY, France - The never before last year, with a record 268.9 million bottles being sold, up 5.1 percent from the year before, the French champagne produ-

cers' association reported. It was the first time that more than 100 million bottles of Champagne were shipped ontside France, and French sales were up, too, to a record 165.1 million bottles, Total sales were expected to go as high as 17 hillion francs (\$2.8 billion), up from 15.8 billion francs in 1996.

WASHINGTON — ately call a grand jury to hear witnesses testify against him. The way he will do this is to offer immunity to anyone who has anything bad to say about the president's adviser. The feather in the prosecutor's hat will be if his investigation leads to miscon-

duct in the Oval Office.

Let's say the special prosecutor digs up information taped by a disgruntled admin-istration employee concern-ing Willington's offer to invite a White House intern to accept a plane ride and lodging from a Japanese car company for the Winter Olympics. This leads the prosecutor to discover Willington once had a one-night stand in Sun Valley with a figure skater from the women's Olympic team.

The prosecutor subpoenas the skater to testify about the affair and produce gifts ex-changed with the official. The prosecutor offers the

skater a pardon if she declines to take the Fifth. Her lawyer says no unless she gets a joh in Paris.

That is just a hypothetical situation. Many special prosecntors who hang out with ap-pointees will still be unable to dig up anything that would send someone to jail. It isn't necessary for an SP to produce world drank Champagne like a conviction when assigned to prosecute someone - but if he comes up with nothing, his chances of an interview with Barbara Walters are nil.

> One special prosecutor who got nothing recently could be seen standing in front of the White House handing subpoenas to anyone who walked out of the gate.

He knew he was playing a long shot, but that is what special prosecuting is all

Berlin Film Fest, Post-Wall, Goes for the Gold

By Alan Riding New York Times Service

BERLIN — During the Cold War, the Berlin Film Festival had loads of money and a strong political mission. Today it is hard up and struggling to find a new identity. Not that it has many options. At the world's main film festivals, husiness has long since supplanted art or even politics as the main concern. Berlin, it seems, has had little choice hat to go commercial.

As in recent years, the hig American studios have again used Berlin as a European showcase for movies already released in the United States, among them "Good Will Hunting," "The Boxer," "Jackie Brown," "Wag the Dog" and "The Gingerbread Man." The festival provides the films with a good deal of publicity, but they will all soon be in theaters here.

But when it comes to finding new films with box-office potential, the shadow of Cannes in May already hovers over Berlin in February. A good many producers prefer to gamhle on their movies being picked for Cannes rather than to accept a slot in Berlin's official competition. Until this year, Italian films were boycotting Berlin to favor the summer film festival in Venice.

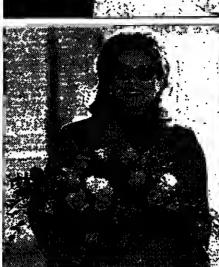
Still, at this 48th Berlinale, which closes

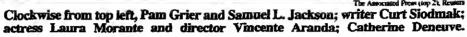
on Sunday with the screening of Peter He-witt's "Sliding Doors," at least three films have been enthusiastically received by critics and Berlin audiences and seem likely contenders for the festival's Golden Bear awards this weekend: the Coen brothers' latest, "The Big Lebowski"; Neil Jordan's adaptation of the Irish novel "The Butcher Boy," and Walter Salles's "Central Station" from Brazil.

Set in Los Angeles in the early 1990s, "The Big Lebowski" is a Raymond Chandler-inspired comedy of errors that plunges a chronically lazy marijuana smoker who calls himself the Dude (Jeff Bridges) and his manic Vietnam veteran pal Walter (John Goodman) into a tale of kidnapping, extortion, double-crossing and seduction when they would both prefer to be bowling with their friend Donny (Steve Buscemi).

Thanks to "Barton Fink" and "Fargo," Joel and Ethan Coen seem to be fast acquiring the cult adulation previously reserved in Europe for Woody Allen. And the proof was the most crowded post-screening







the questions were often longer than the

Asked about one scene that seemed to have no rhyme nor reason, Joel Coen, the film's director, explained that it was "what we call a 'Kafka break.' " And to the question of whether the movie had any purpose beyond langhing at Nazis and "Hispanic pederasts" (a reference to a character played by John Turturo), he paused and then offered, "I guess you hit the nail on the

"The Butcher Boy," a dramatic switch for Jordan after "Michael Collins," is also full of humor though it tells a darker story, of news conference of the festival so far. Since a I2-year-old boy growing up in a small Irish the hrothers are not famous talkers, however, town in the early 1960s.



Francie Brady, played by Eamonn Owens, lives in a fantasy world peopled by the Lone Ranger and the Virgin Mary (Sinead O'Connor). The film, in which Stephen Rea plays Francie's drunken father and provides Francie's own voice recounting the story 20 years later, is remarkably faithful to the novel, which was a finalist for Britain's Booker Prize in 1992. "The book is one of those extraordinary books that is so local that it is not even Irish," Jordan said, "I just wanted to show the series of disasters that occur to this boy and lead his mind to be-coming unhinged." In picking Earnonn Owens for the challenging role of Francie, Jordan said he followed his belief that "if you cast a child, you're better off casting one arious effect.

who has done no acting." Salles belatedly: reached the same conclusion in "Central Station," auditioning 1,500 boys before picking Vinicius de Oliveira, s 18 year aid shoeshine boy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to

play one of the two lead roles, Fostle.

In the movie, which was well received at this year's Sundance Film Festival, Jesus sees his mother killed by a bus outside Kio's main railroad station. Homeless and des titute, he is befriended by Dora (Fernanda Montenegro), a retired schoolteacher who now writes letters dictated to her by illiterates passing through the station (albeit posting only those of which she approves). Eventually the two set off by bus for Bozzil's impoverished northeast in search of Josue's.

"Central Station" stands out for its real-istic depiction of the lives of ordinary Brazilians. It also offers evidence of a rebirth of Brazil's movie industry thanks to new investment incentives. Last year's Besimale presented Bruno Barreto's "Four Pays in September," which was nominated last week for an Oscar for best foreign language. In contrast, with the exception of The

Butcher Boy," Europe's offerings were modest here this year. Nick Hurran's "Guls" Night" is a tears-and-laughter story of two middle-aged working-class British women, played by Brenda Blethyn and Julie Walters. who share their bingo winnings and head off to Las Vegas for a final fling after one of them is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

For the official competition; Germany offered only "The Big Mambo," a light-hearted first movie by the actor Michael Gwisdek in which he and his wife; Comma Harfouch, star as an actor and actress trying to. make their first movie. Jeroen Krabbe, a wellknown Dutch actor, chose to make his first

film, 'Left Luggage,' in English, although it is set in Antwerp's Jewish community.

But after Jacques Doillon's perennial French love triangle, 'Trop (Peu) d'Amour,' provoked snickers and yawns from one festival audience, it took the vet-eran French director Alain Resnais to show that life remains in the European movie

In "On Connait la Chanson" ("Same Old Song"), his trick is simple but effective: In a light tale of love and intrigue, his characters keep breaking out in song, lip-synching pop-ular French songs with straight faces to hil-

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PEOPLE

THINGS seemed pretty fishy for L Kevin Kline when he went to Harvard to accept the Hasty Pudding Club's Man of the Year award. First, members of the drama club rolled out a fish tank. Then they tried to get Kline to swallow a fish, a feat he performed in the movie
"A Fish Called Wanda." In the end, Kline only fed it. "I'm truly honored and touched in ways too indescribable to tell you," Kline said in accepting his award. He won an Academy Award for best supporting actor in "Wanda," and his in which he co-started with Sigourney Weaver, who received the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year award last week. Kline also won Tony Awards for stage work in "On the Twentieth Century" and "The Pirates of Penzance."

Frank Sinatra does not have cancer, according to a message pnt on his family's Web site to counter reports that he has cancer of the bladder. "As far as we, his family, know, at the present time there is no cancer anywhere in Frank's body, and he is not in need of surgery of any kind," said the Web site at Sinatrafamily.com. The 82-year-old singer was in a Los Angeles hospital last week undergoing a series of tests.

The action superstar Jackie Chan has launched an international campaign with two organizations seeking to persuade people not to consume products derived from endangered species. Chan

is working with The Global Survival Network and Earth Care, a Hong Kong animal conservation group. "This year is the Year of the Tiger, but there are only 5,000 wild tigers left," Chan said. 'Please help me to help the animals. Remember, when the haying stops, the killing can too."

Courtney Love says she's ont \$27,543 after winning a case in which

Titanic Distress Signals Fetch \$123,500

Agence France-Presse TEW YORK — Christie's auction house received \$123,500 for some chilling memories: 34 distress signals sent on the night the luxury liner

Titanic struck an iceberg and sank in the frigid waters of the Atlantic. "We have struck an iceberg," was the terse wireless message the Titanic sent to its sister ship. Olympic, at 11 P.M. on April 14, 1912. Twenty minutes later, the Titanic sent another message: "We are putting the passengers off in small boats." Interest in the printed messages, translated by cable operators from Morse code;

was fueled by the stunning success of James Cameron's film "Titanic." In all, 53 messages were auctioned in the Christie's sale Tuesday of model boats, marine equipment and navigational instruments.

she was charged with singging two fans during a 1995 concert. Love wants Orange County, Florida, to reimburse her that amount for legal fees, but the county is offering only \$1,900. "We're trying to be nice," prosecutor George Dorsett said in the Orlando Sentinel. "I have ried to proper the side of civing her have tried to ear on the side of giving her too much money." Two counts of bartery were thrown out after a judge ruled that the two teens allegedly struck by the singer at a concert by Hole, Love's former group, were not exposed to any expected at a rock concert.

The names of the actors Glenda Jackson and Jeremy Irons and the best-selling novelist Jeffrey Archer are being tossed about by press and public as possible candidates for the job of mayor of London. Under a Labour government plan, Londoners will vote in May in a referendum asking if they want a directly elected mayor. If the voters say yes, a mayoral election will probably take place in May 2000.



Kevin Kline and fish fans at Harvard's Hasty Pudding Club ceremony.





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